

The Middlebury Campus

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Since 1905

Liquor inspector describes duties

By Adam Schaffer
and Sarah Harris
STAFF WRITERS

For four Middlebury College students living at Quarry Road, October 30 is a day that will live in infamy. The day marked the first, though to the dismay of some, not the last, time the Vermont liquor inspector would take action against collegiate underage drinking.

That night the Vermont liquor inspector, in conjunction with the Middlebury Police Department and members of the Stop Teen Alcohol Risk Team, broke up a party at Quarry Road where underage drinking was occurring. Sixteen students were cited for underage drinking, while four of the residents of the house were charged with serving alcohol to minors.

Pete Smith '10, a Quarry Road resident, finds the liquor inspector's continued presence on campus and methods of prosecution questionable.

"He knew a party was occurring because he went to Middlebury [Discount] Beverage and checked their log book," Smith explained in an e-mail. "He saw the name of a student who had taken out kegs. He took the name to Public Safety and looked up the address — again,

in compliance with the law and his jurisdiction. He then waited in the driveway for a student to come outside and he ID'd him. I think ultimately he overstepped his authority boundary, and he play[ed] the intimidation card."

This week, *The Campus* investigates the rumors and realities surrounding the liquor inspector after he again graced campus during Winter Carnival.

He seems to many to be the amorphous "Big Brother" of the Middlebury social scene, bent on persecuting students for their weekly nights of inebriation.

"He's a fun ruiner," joked Alice Ford '10. "He ruins fun."

Jack Maher '12 wondered about the necessity of the liquor inspector rumored visits.

"I've never seen him but he should stop creepin'," he said. "The College does enough already to manage the party scene."

A flurry of rumors surrounded the liquor inspector's Winter Carnival appearance. Purportedly, minors in the liquor inspector's employ would arrive at campus parties so that the liquor inspector could then implicate the party hosts for en-

SEE DESPITE, PAGE 14

Councils thrive despite low funds

By Andrew Weaver
STAFF WRITER

Due to the recent economic crisis and Middlebury's current financial balance, executives of the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) imposed major budget limitations on commons councils at the beginning of the 2009-10 year. In spite of these losses, as the College enters the midway point of the spring semester, the councils remain active.

The budget for each commons council has been restructured — al-

lotting less money directly to each commons but providing access to a greater amount via a central pool fund. Under the pool fund, controlled by MCAB's executive board, each commons may petition for money to fund any event or initiative.

Though this restructuring does achieve a workable solution for the reduction of budgets amid Middlebury's tight economic situation, commons representatives are affected by the change.

Ross Commons Co-Chair Clara Loebenstein '12 acknowledges that the fiscal restructuring has affected the activities of each commons.

"We initially received less money than last year. The numbers are confidential, but they are significantly less," she said. "Middlebury just doesn't have the kind of money it did before."

Despite the decrease in individual funding for each commons at

SEE COMMONS, PAGE 4



Courtesy/Jeff Patterson

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Mathieu Dubuc '13 scores the hockey team's second goal against Bowdoin during the NESCAC championship game on March 7, in which the Panthers were victorious. For more on the game, see page 24.

Language RAs reassigned

By Anthony Adragna
NEWS EDITOR

The Dean of Students' office will restructure the distribution of Residential Advisors (RA) for the 2010-11 academic year in order to achieve a more balanced ratio of RAs to the students they oversee.

Under the new system, the administration will retain the same number of RA positions.

Many of the current language house RA positions will be spread throughout others parts of campus. The Spanish, French, German and Japanese houses will select RAs for the coming year. That reduced number of RAs will oversee the other language houses.

Senior Residence Advisor Lee Zerrilla said the decision was made to reassign RAs because of an imbalance in coverage across the College.

"Currently in the Dean of Students [domain] there are 997 residents and 32 RAs, which gives us an average of about 30 residents per RA," Zerrilla said. "While that number might seem manageable, the average doesn't reflect the whole story. Many language house RAs supervise between four and six students, while some community RAs have far greater numbers. The RA in Atwater Hall A, for example, has 84 residents assigned to them. Because of this disparity, very few locations on campus actually fall near the average."

Among those set to lose a

house RA is the Italian department. Professor of Italian and Department Chair Thomas Van Order learned of the decision on March 4. The decision had already been made and the department had begun to solicit applications for the RA position for the following year.

Van Order said he understood the rationale for the decision, but objects to how it was made.

"There is a great deal of redundancy between the positions of RA and Teaching Assistant (TA), and in a language house with a total of six members, it is hard to justify two paid leadership positions," he said. "I think that it was wrong that the decision to eliminate the Italian RA was made with minimal input from the Italian department."

Zerrilla emphasized that several RAs on campus currently oversee multiple small houses and said that those arrangements work well.

"RA responsibilities will be

SEE SOME, PAGE 2

LIS reports printing decrease under quota

By Catherine Ahearn
STAFF WRITER

Even as the newly implemented printing quota system has already reduced the use of printers across campus, students find themselves nearing the end of their free allowance of pages.

By making students pay for additional printing, the College seeks to cut down on waste and trim its budget however. Dean of Library and Information Services (LIS) Mike Roy said the College had planned to eliminate free printing before the financial crisis struck.

"This was something that we had tried to get going but there really wasn't the political will to

do this," said Roy. "But once the financial crisis began, it became easier politically to just make the argument that we should do this."

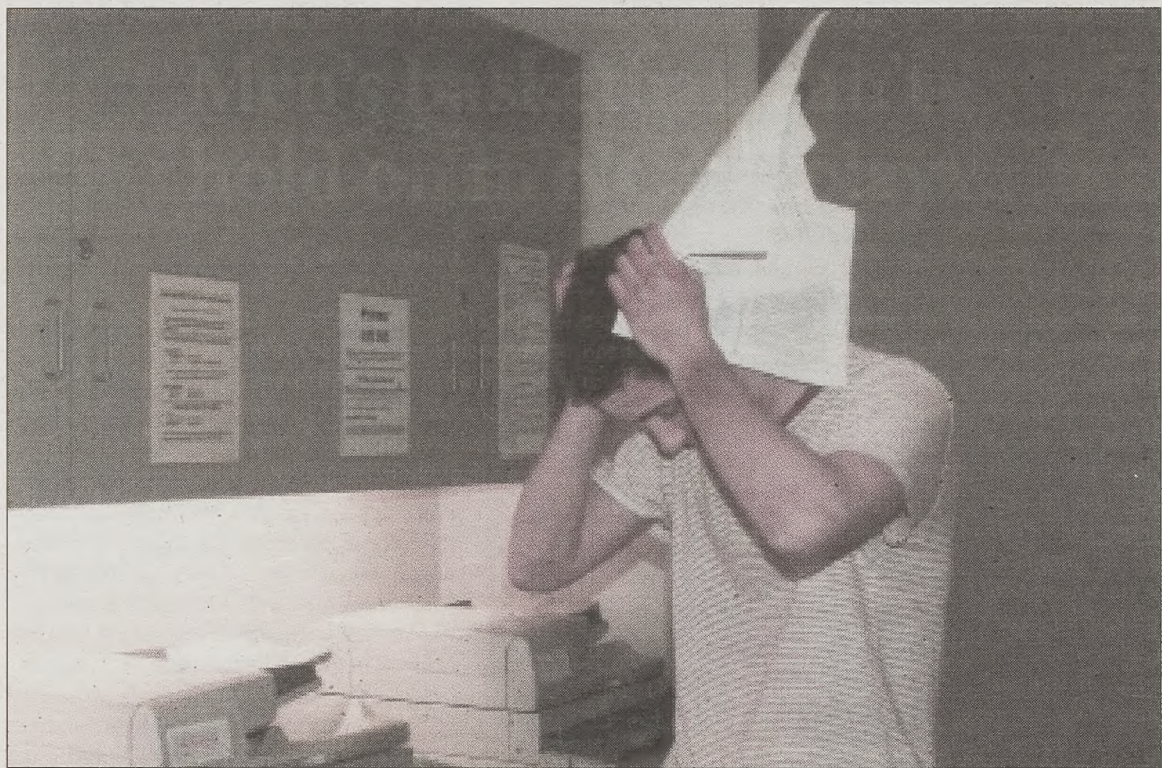
According to Roy, data are being gathered to review the new system at the semester's end.

"We made our best good-faith effort based on last year's data to try and come up with what was reasonable, and we'll look at it again and might need to make some adjustments," said Roy.

Despite the statistics, students widely disagree with the College forcing them to pay for mandatory readings.

"I print assigned readings,

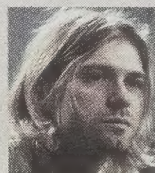
SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 2



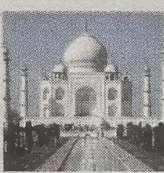
Erika Wade

Many students are already close to exceeding their printing quotas early in the semester, prompting frustration.

this week



Here we are, now educate us
An academic brings 90s grunge bands to the classroom, page 5.



De-romanticizing India
An in-depth look at the history of the country's foreign policy, page 12-13.

Hey, Mr. DJ

Get to know all of the magical mash-up makers on campus, page 16.





overseas briefing

by Galen Anderson '11

ALEXANDRIA — Prior to traveling to Egypt, I had never been out of the United States (Canada doesn't count), so I really wasn't sure what to expect from a land as exotic as the Middle East. When I arrived, culture shock was my first reaction, but, like all who go abroad, I had expected this.

What I didn't expect was that I would turn into an Egyptian. I have, indeed, become an Egyptian.

This phenomenon became apparent when I visited Jordan this past week, and the natives told me: *You don't look like an Egyptian, but you must be from Egypt.*

Why this reaction?

First, I have an Egyptian accent, according to the Jordanians. For those of you who don't know Arabic, this includes pronouncing "ga" instead of "ja," a glottal stop sound instead of the much prettier "qa" sound, and a million other little differences in terms of colloquial words and sayings.

But my Egyptianness doesn't stop there. Oh, no.

An avid coffee drinker since I was about three years old, I have only ever used milk in my coffee occasionally, and *never* sugar.

I now use more milk than coffee, and four sugar packets per cup.

There's more:

1. I have watched approximately 20 soccer matches in the last two months. Soccer is bigger here than football is in the state of Georgia (it is huge there, by the way).

2. I eat *ful* (bean paste) and *falafel* for breakfast. *Ful* is amazing. I will be attempting to cook it in the fall — find me then.

3. I use religious words in daily conversation (i.e. "if God wills it," "thanks be to God," "oh, my God," etc.). These expressions have a million meanings. Sometimes, they are used for general emphasis. In other cases, they are actually an answer to a question, i.e., "How are you?" — "Praise be to God."

4. I yell at foreigners for wearing inappropriate clothing. What are the *hewagat* (foreigners) thinking when they wear mini skirts and tank tops in a mosque, or even in the street? And, yes, I actually *have* yelled at them (but in Arabic, so they didn't understand).

5. This is the best yet. I ignore lines in restaurants. Instead, I push through the crowd and scream out my order to the cashier. Any Egyptian (like me) knows that if you want food, push your way to the front and flash your money. It also helps that, while my speech is Egyptian, my looks are foreign.

Unfortunately, in addition to this lighter and funnier side of my study abroad experience, there have been negative changes in my personality. I took a lot for granted in the U.S., including my ability to walk down the street alone, talk to anyone I want, or even something as simple as smiling at a stranger.

Some not-so-nice aspects of my Egyptianness:

I never smile at people in the street; I don't wave "thank you" when cars stop for me. I ignore hellos. I am pushy when I haggle prices in stores and markets and, the biggest difference yet, I yell obscenities (Arabic and English) at impolite men in the street.

It's a little cheesy — but definitely honest — to admit that these past two months have changed me. But thanks to my newfound Egyptianness I am learning that I can handle this extremely different world, and in the process, I am finding a path to understanding and hopefully changing the negative aspects of my experience here — "if God wills it."

Students quickly exceed printing quota

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

which are a lot because I am a IPE major," commented Daniel Crepps '12.

Crepps is one of many students who find that, with more than half of the semester to go, they have gone through more than half of their credit.

"I have \$11 left, and I don't print excessively, but when reading is assigned, I have to print it to avoid staring at a screen for hours on end," says Crepps.

LIS worked closely with the Faculty LIS Advisory Committee (FLAC) and the Student LIS Advisory Committee (SLAC) to iron out the details of the system, such as how much credit each student should receive, and to try to integrate it into the college community with the greatest ease.

"The system is not going to be perfect the first time around," said Pathik Root '12, a member of the SLAC. "Any system has its flaws, but this is definitely a step in the right direction. We had to start somewhere. This is a process. Quotas can definitely change. Nothing is set in stone."

Students and the SLAC continue to debate the use of e-reserves instead of course packs.

"We didn't want to revert to course packs just because it would be a step backwards, especially for environmental concerns," Root argued. "E-reserves gives students the flexibility to pay for a reading if they want to. With e-reserves, the copyright fees are taken up by the school, so students are only paying for the actual paper and ink."

To help ease the burden on students, a push has also been made to get members of the faculty in tune with the new limitations. Associate Professor of Film & Media Culture and American Studies Jason Mittell is a member of the FLAC and has tried educating faculty on alternative ways of conducting their classes.

"We sent out an all faculty e-mail in January explaining what the policy was, telling the faculty that they should be mindful of the policy and making some suggestions so that they can make active decisions," said Mittell, "I also co-ran a workshop on electronic grading."

As part of the new system, students receive \$25.00 per semester, except for seniors, who are given \$50.00. Logs of data from last year showed that seniors printed about twice as much as other students and

failed to show any strong trends with respect to printing habits among majors.

"It's sort of like health care," said Roy. "We wanted to cover 80 percent of the cost with students covering 20 percent of the cost and if we gave seniors the same quota we would have only covered for them about 40 percent of their cost."

Different ideas have been considered regarding how to differentiate between majors and classes that require more amounts of reading.

"I think the credits should be allotted per course rather than per student," suggests Daniel Schiraldi '13. "I'm sure there are students who leave plenty of credit unused while others are struggling to stay under the limit."

However, because Banner Web and PaperCut, the printing software used by the college, are not in sync, the technology is not available to directly link a student's academic status to his or her printing.

"We realized that it would be very complicated to differentiate between every major — the technology just wasn't there,"

the printing limitations are inconsistent with other policies on campus.

"The new printing system would make sense if the College didn't require us to waste paper in so many other ways," Guillory said. "All official forms, such as add/drop cards, require paper when that could easily be done over the Internet. The newspaper itself could be considered a waste of paper, but all of these things are considered fine. Then, when I need to print something out for class, I have to pay." Despite its flaws, the new printing system does come with its benefits. Due to less printing, printers will be more stable and break down much less than in the past.

"One of the hopes I have is that we can get new machines," said Roy. "The lower volume will make them perform better but also getting a new fleet of printers will help out."

Another benefit is that students can now send printing jobs to print stations directly from their laptops by typing in "go/papercut" into their browsers and logging in using their Middlebury username and password.

New changes are also on the horizon such as a system of "rollover credit," a policy suggested by a student that would allow students to accumulate unused printing credit until he or she graduates. Soon, students will also be able to re-route printing jobs from one station to another.

"We wanted to make the changes in a way where there would be trade-offs so that some things would get easier although we had to pay," said Root.

Any suggestions are welcome and should be submitted to the LIS suggestions page at <http://blogs.middlebury.edu/lissuggestions/make-a-suggestion>.

Getting a new fleet of printers will help out.

— Mike Roy

said Root. "What would you do with first-years who haven't declared majors? Or people who switch majors mid-semester or someone who just happens to have a lot of political science classes one semester? It's tricky."

Courtney Guillory '11 said she believes

Some language houses to lose RA positions

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shared across multiple houses, much as they are now with the small house RAs that work with unaffiliated houses," he said. "Other portions of the RA role have been non-standardized among the academic interest houses. In some, TAs plan the bulk of language and cultural programming. In other cases, you have an RA who only needs to take care of the 'nuts and bolts' of the housing operation for a handful of students."

Van Order said having another RA in charge of the Italian House concerns him.

In spite of the concerns, Zerrilla said no cuts to the number of positions will be made and the new system will improve the residential system.

"This new system allows increased flexibility to hire and assign additional RAs in places on campus where they are needed most, to help alleviate the strain of some of those high numbers," he said. "[It will] allow us to focus on serving students better."

Middbrief

Public Safety purchases new SUVs

by Kara Shurmantine, News Editor

The unmarked SUV students may have noticed Public Safety officers driving around campus in recent weeks is simply the department's newest addition to its regular fleet of two vehicles. It has not yet been marked to identify it as a Public Safety

vehicle because the department is awaiting a price quote from the company it contracts to paint the vehicles.

As Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah explained in an e-mail, this new SUV was actually purchased used from a local

dealer, and was acquired in order to replace an older vehicle that needed "significant and costly repairs." Purchasing a used SUV was more cost-effective than repairing the old one.

Typically, Public Safety follows a two-year replacement cycle for its vehicles. However, "when the College was faced with the economic downturn, [Public Safety] was informed that that we would not be able to continue the two-year replacement cycle" for the vehicles, said Boudah. Until this recent purchase, the department was unsure when it would ever be able to replace old vehicles. The budget from which Public Safety vehicles are purchased is developed between the Facilities Services Office and the Budget Office.

Some students have found it strange to see Public Safety officers driving in an unmarked vehicle.

"It's kind of weird to see them driving around in a normal-looking car," said Justine Warren '12. "As long as they're not doing it on purpose, though, I guess it's not creepy."

Boudah emphasized that the new vehicle will be marked within the month.



The unmarked SUV employed by Public Safety officers was purchased used at a local dealership.

Nick Soh / Photos Editor

Symposium breaks record for presenters

By Leah Pickett
STAFF WRITER

Over 200 students will participate in this year's Student Research Symposium on April 16, an increase of 50 percent from last year. The event has been expanded for the first time to include performances in the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts and presentations in foreign languages.

The symposium is a day-long event in which students present original research that they have completed for a variety of purposes ranging from internships and study abroad programs to classes at Middlebury and senior theses. Students may present using PowerPoint presentations, posters, demonstrations and performances.

"Having a full day has just meant that all departments have really embraced this as the program of the day, so it's drawn more attention," said Associate Dean of the College Karen Guttentag, one of the main organizers of the event. "This year, I've found that there's a lot more department advocacy and involvement in making sure their department is represented."

Since its inception four years ago, the symposium has sought to encourage students to pursue their academic passions and allow faculty and other students to learn about their peers' interests. Although there is an application process, the symposium isn't selective; the only requirements are that students have a 'mentor' — for instance, a faculty member to a boss from a summer internship — and have some kind of "inquiry-based" project.

The goal is to ensure that the symposium isn't "competitive and cut-throat," Guttentag said. For seniors presenting theses, the symposium is voluntary and doesn't count as their thesis presentation. Although the vast majority of the participating students are seniors, there has been a marked increase this year in the participation of first-years, sophomores and juniors. When the symposium was originally launched, there was discussion as to whether it should be open only to senior presenters. However, the committee decided to open it to all classes in the hope that it would provide an opportunity to students to practice their presentation skills year after year.

"This is about sharing what you're passionate about," Associate Dean of Undergraduate Research and Professor of Geology Pat Manley told participating students at a meeting on March 4. "This is not going to be graded ... it's a good feeling. The main thing is for you to smile and enjoy the day."

Organizers of the Symposium also hope that the presentations will allow students to share interests with each other that they

might not generally discuss in social settings.

"Students don't always have an opportunity to present to their friends and peers exactly what they have been researching," Manley said.

The oral presentations are grouped into four-person sets by a single uniting factor in the presentation, rather than by department. For example, the "Women of the World" grouping will include topics in English, Economics, History and International Studies, while the "Marketplace" grouping will include presentations in Political Science, International Studies, Geography and Economics.

"We find that it's a more interesting way to present; it means that economists aren't presenting to an auditorium of economists," said Karen Guttentag. "Coming at the same issue from a variety of perspectives not only gives you a 360-degree lens on the topic itself, but you have an audience that is hearing about their area of interest from a completely different perspective."

The Center for Teaching and Learning Research (CTLR) will work with oral presenters to ensure that their presentations are polished and professional by offering public speaking workshops. For the first time, the

school will offer "media tutors" to ensure that students can properly utilize all technology available to them.

Students who set up posters about their projects stand by their posters and answer questions about their research, and a handful have interacting elements. This year, an 11-

Seeing students at the top of their game in this way is really inspiring for all of us.

— Karen Guttentag

foot wind turbine and glass blowing display will be presented.

Gruia Badescu '07 will give the keynote address for the event. Badescu was a geography major who has continued to do research since his graduation. The symposium tries to choose Middlebury graduates who have graduated in the last 10 years as keynote speakers because they "bridge the gap between a full-blown career of accomplishment and where students are right now," Guttentag said.

"The topics themselves are so broad and so fascinating," Guttentag said. "Seeing students at the top of their game in this way is really inspiring for all of us. It's a snapshot of some of the most exciting work that goes on here at Middlebury and a celebration of the learning process in the purest sense."



Darcy Mullen

Students learn details about the student symposium, which will feature over 200 presentations.

SGAupdate

by Dana Callahan, Staff Writer

SGA votes to expand Midnight Breakfast for spring

Members of the Student Government Association (SGA) committed \$12,000 to expand Midnight Breakfast this spring at its meeting on March 7.

Based on high student attendance in the fall and positive feedback from the student body, the Student Government Association has decided to continue and expand Midnight Breakfast. For three nights during spring term finals, students, hungry and tired from studying, will be able to fuel up in the early hours of the morning. This one-night expansion will be funded by the SGA. Each night will cost \$4,000.

The SGA also discussed the current state of the fitness center. Molly Dwyer '10, student co-chair of Community Council, commented on the lack of maintenance of the exercise equipment available in the fitness center and the inconvenient hours of operation. During the week, the gym is open from 6 to 9 a.m., but then closes until noon. Although many faculty members use the gym during the early morning hours, Dwyer believes students would make more use of mid-morning gym

time. Improved equipment and increased hours of operation would benefit all members of the College community, from professors to varsity athletes, she believes.

Jess Poracky '13, a member of the Panthers' varsity softball team, agrees that the current hours are not conducive to many students' schedules.

"Many times, I am finished with classes before noon, and it would be so convenient to be able to go to the gym then," Poracky said. "It would also be extremely helpful for the gym to open earlier on the weekends."

Although the SGA has not decided what course of action it will take because funding for the gym is part of the tuition-based athletic facilities budget. SGA members agreed to appraise the situation to determine whether they can or should make any financial contributions to improve the situation. The SGA plans to contact Director of Athletics Erin Quinn to determine the next steps to be taken to provide new, functional equipment and more convenient hours of operation.

The body also discussed the SGA's finances at the meeting. SGA President Mike Panzer '10 reviewed the funds requested by various SGA Cabinet committees. Although final approval must come from SGA Treasurer Tom Brush '10, the SGA agreed to the allocation of the funding, which Panzer described as "pre-apportioned budgets [that] will facilitate and expedite work that cabinet committees undertake." The funds include \$500 to the Environmental Committee to continue its efforts to increase environmental consciousness on campus, through tabletop ads in the dining halls and through the continuation of campus sustainability tours. Additionally, \$1,500 will be allocated to the Diversity Committee to help with the cost of hosting speakers and conducting workshops. The bike club will receive \$1,500 as well. The money will come from the student activity fees fund. The Finance Committee also has agreed to pay in full the individual entry and registration fees for members of the cycling and equestrian clubs.

college shorts

By Vedika Khanna, Staff Writer

Lecture example sparks media frenzy on Roberts

What started out as a simple law lecture turned into a media frenzy on Thursday at Georgetown University.

Professor Peter W. Tague started his criminal law course in the morning by telling students that the Supreme Court's chief justice, John G. Roberts, would announce his retirement soon due to health reasons. He then asked students not to spread the word but to keep the information within the class.

After learning the news, however, at least one student texted the information to his or her friends. Within 20 minutes, Radar Online, a gossip site that is the sibling to the National Enquirer, officially reported the rumor, which soon spread to other Web sites.

About halfway through the lecture, which was on the credibility of informants, the professor explained that the information about Roberts was made up to show the class that even people who may be considered reliable sources can give inaccurate information.

—The Chronicle of Higher Education

Tufts University allows applicant YouTube vids

For the first time ever, Tufts University allowed its prospective students to turn in a short YouTube video of themselves as a supplement to their application. Of the 15,000 applicants who applied, about 1,000 submitted videos.

Tufts University is known for the unique aspects of its application. It often gives students a variety of optional essays to answer, which include questions such as "Are we alone?," one of this year's topics.

In the videos, some prospective students merely chose to talk into the camera, while others submitted more elaborate projects, showing off their water cameras or animation skills. Elephants were a common theme among many videos, as the university's mascot is Jumbo the Elephant.

About 60 percent of the videos came from women, with two-thirds sent in by financial aid applicants. Some of the videos have developed a following. One of the favorites so far has had more than 6,000 hits.

Lee Coffin, dean of undergraduate admissions, said the videos gave the admissions staff an opportunity to get a better understanding of the applicants beyond their application.

—The New York Times

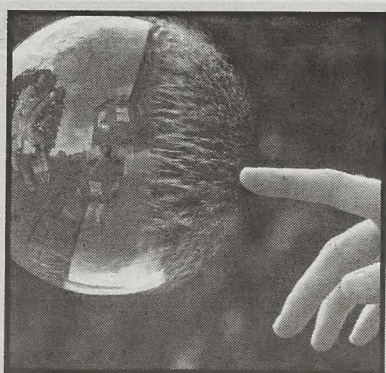
Californian students protect budget cuts

Students in California staged dozens of protests in major cities against state budget cuts to public universities last Thursday. More than 1,000 students gathered at the Berkeley, Los Angeles, Davis and Riverside campuses of the University of California. A larger group went to Sacramento, calling on lawmakers to restore funds.

The protests started out peacefully, with protestors making a point to avoid taking aggressive action. However, groups in Oakland and Davis eventually decided to storm the freeways, stopping traffic until the police turned them back or arrested them.

This movement was part of a larger "national day of action" in which students and faculty in 30 states united to protest the budget cuts. California has been deeply affected by its \$20 billion budget deficit.

—The Chronicle of Higher Education



beyond the bubble

by Bronwyn Oatley, Staff Writer

For two decades, chaos has engulfed the nation of Somalia. The United States government has been a key player in the rehabilitation effort in this nation, and recent government policies indicate that this trend will continue.

In a *New York Times* article published on March 5, it was reported that the U.S. government has been and will continue to provide military training for Somali forces. This effort has been made in an attempt to help the legitimate government reclaim the capital city of Mogadishu from the insurgent group, Al Shabab.

Though the United States was one of the few nations that pushed to establish both humanitarian and military aid agencies on the ground, they employed policies that were often detrimental to the Somali cause.

In December of 1992, when the first U.S. military humanitarian mission was cleared by the United Nations, the American forces landed in Somalia under the policy directive of providing aid for those in need.

In the months that followed, militia simply exited the territory that the American military officials had inhabited, and waited for the soldiers to depart. And depart they did. Following Oct. 3, 1993, a day now made famous by the movie "Black Hawk Down," American policies toward the struggling nation changed drastically.

Since those days, the U.S. has continued to drift in and out of Somalia, utilizing policies of varying levels of effectiveness. In the latest move by the American government, however, it seems as though policies are finally focusing on the strategies that are aimed toward producing long-lasting results in the region.

With the shift to providing training for Somali military personnel, as well as the food aid of old, the development strategy is clearly one directed more heavily toward long-term improvement.

The *New York Times* article noted that the American government has "absorbed a Somali truth that eluded them for nearly 20 years: If Somalia is going to be stabilized, it is going to take Somalis."

The Assistant Secretary of State for Africa said, "This is not an American offensive. There are limits to outside engagement, and there has to be an enormous amount of local buy-in for this work."

In the last two decades in Somalia, the damage has been total. Though the United States has been at the forefront of the delivery of much aid, many of the government policies have been misguided and ineffective. The focus has been too heavily placed on short-term solutions, allowing the conflict to continue.

International humanitarian politics are an undeniably complicated game. Rules of sovereignty, neutrality and impartiality must all be heeded in order to comply with United Nations criteria concerning when a state has authority to intervene in the business of another.

As seen in the past with this conflict, however, the international community supports initiatives to end this conflict. The American government must utilize all available channels to help the Somali government come to a solution for their own nation. This must include a dual approach providing honest humanitarian assistance in the way of food and medical aid, and in structural support including military training and structural economic guidance.

Commons money lumped into joint fund

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Middlebury, the budget cuts have not been so detrimental as to prevent commons councils from funding student proposals and planning their usual slew of various events.

Loebenstein said the Ross commons council has continued to fund a number of student initiatives and will host a large spring party.

"So far, we've spent our budget on a Ross ping pong table, T-shirts, a rejuvenation of the Ross Fireplace Café and Ross Game Room, bonding dinners, snacks and dances," she said. "We're also planning a big spring fling called

'Something Like a Brazilian Carnival.' It will be a catered event with desserts, a beer garden for those of age, a band and a dance party afterward. It will finish off most of our budget and will dip a bit into the MCAB pool fund."

Co-Chair Armaan Sarkar '12 said Wonnacott Commons has used its funds to bring musical acts to campus, in addition to smaller, weekly events.

"Our major expenditures have been on performances and concerts such as Global Rhythms, Ryan Cabrera and our to-be-announced charity concert, 'Raise The Volume,'" he said. "We have also put much effort into

small community events for Wonnacott Commons such as weekly yoga, fondue Friday, coffee hours, trips to Burlington, rafting and community service."

While Middlebury students may not see every activity and event they propose to their commons councils carried out, there continues to be funding for events with substantial student support. It is the advice of the commons councils that, should any students have an idea for a commons-sponsored event, they should take the initiative, gather support for their idea and propose it to their commons council at a weekly meeting.

public safety log

March 1 - March 8, 2010

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
3/1/2010	2:09 a.m.	Fire Alarm	General	Palmer	Referred to Commons Dean
3/1/2010	7:30 a.m.	Theft	From residence hall	Atwater Hall A	—
3/3/2010	8:00 p.m.	Theft	From vehicle	D Lot	Referred to MPD
3/3/2010	11:00 p.m.	Theft	From vehicle	T Lot	Referred to MPD
3/4/2010	12:53 a.m.	Unlawful trespass	Service or dining area	Ross Dining Hall	Referred to Dean of College
3/5/2010	9:40 p.m.	Drug violation	Paraphernalia	Lang	Referred to Commons Dean
3/5/2010	4:01 a.m.	Theft	Vehicle	Athletic Complex	Referred to Commons Dean
3/5/2010	6:15 p.m.	Theft	From public space	Proctor Hall	Referred to MPD
3/6/2010	2:30 p.m.	Theft	From vehicle	Q Lot	Referred to MPD
3/6/2010	11:34 p.m.	Vandalism	—	Stewart	Referred to Commons Dean
3/7/2010	12:45 a.m.	Vandalism	College property	Ross Dining Hall	Referred to Commons Dean

The Department of Public Safety reported giving six alcohol citations between March 1 and March 8.

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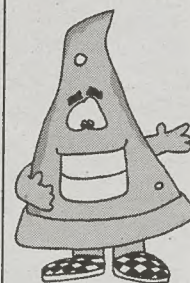
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Robert Norberg

Staff Writer

Former dean explores Nirvana in academic context

On Wednesday, March 2, Middlebury residents came as they were to the Ilsley Public Library in downtown Middlebury for the lecture "Nirvana and Religion." The lecture was part of the Vermont Humanities Council's First Wednesdays series, held on the first Wednesday of every month at Ilsley and other locations statewide. The monthly series is designed to bring esteemed speakers to Vermont to discuss a wide range of humanities subjects.

Giving the lecture was George Dennis O'Brien, former president of Bucknell University and the University of Rochester, and former Dean of Students at Middlebury. At the onset of the lecture, O'Brien noted that the focus of his discussion would be Plato's ancient notion that a change in music denotes a profound change in the world's culture. Given Nirvana's groundbreaking success establishing alternative rock at the forefront of popular music, O'Brien aimed to take on the band's wealth of cultural import in an academic setting.

While the focus was on Nirvana, O'Brien spent the better part of the lecture providing a lineage of American popular music. From Frank Sinatra's crooning to Elvis's swooning and on to Pink Floyd's anti-establishment mantras, O'Brien attempted to place Nirvana in its oft-disputed place on the popular music spec-

trum. With a Ph.D in philosophy from the University of Chicago, O'Brien also examined Nirvana's "songs of chaos" in the context of the philosophy of art. In O'Brien's opinion, the band's popular and philosophical place in history represents an open attack on articulation and is a "breakdown of the spoken word."

This breakdown provided the initial intrigue for O'Brien's study, and appropriate song clips were played during the lecture to provide lyrical evidence. One example of the "breakdown of the word" was the arbitrary snarls of Nirvana's Kurt Cobain in "Smells Like Teen Spirit" ("A mulatto an albino/A mosquito my libido").

O'Brien also considers the phenomenon of Nirvana to be closely related to his lifelong involvement in education. He recalled his days at Middlebury.

"I remember being a dean when Pink Floyd came out saying, 'We don't need no education' [in the song 'Another Brick in the Wall']". I felt that was a strong attack on the educational system. That was when I really started to pay attention to recent music, which eventually brought me to Nirvana."

As a former educator in elite colleges and universities, O'Brien recalled feeling that many of the students he dealt with were not fulfilling their huge potential. O'Brien sees Nirvana's tragic frontman Cobain as an example of young artists, and youth in general, who do not fit into the mold of systems such as higher education.

"I asked myself, why do these bright kids not perform?" O'Brien said. "Like [Cobain], I think that their personalities are not made to fit the rigid structure of society."

O'Brien's interpretations of grunge rock presented many important questions on the subject of recent popular music and its place in academia. At what point does a pop cultural phenomenon become ripe for academic scrutiny? When do the angst-ridden anthems of our youth and Nirvana's convention-threatening attacks become fodder for critical interpretations or philosophical consideration? Next month marks the 16th anniversary of Kurt Cobain's death and the subsequent end of Nirvana, and academic contextualization seemed strained, if not impossible.

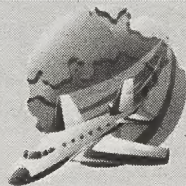
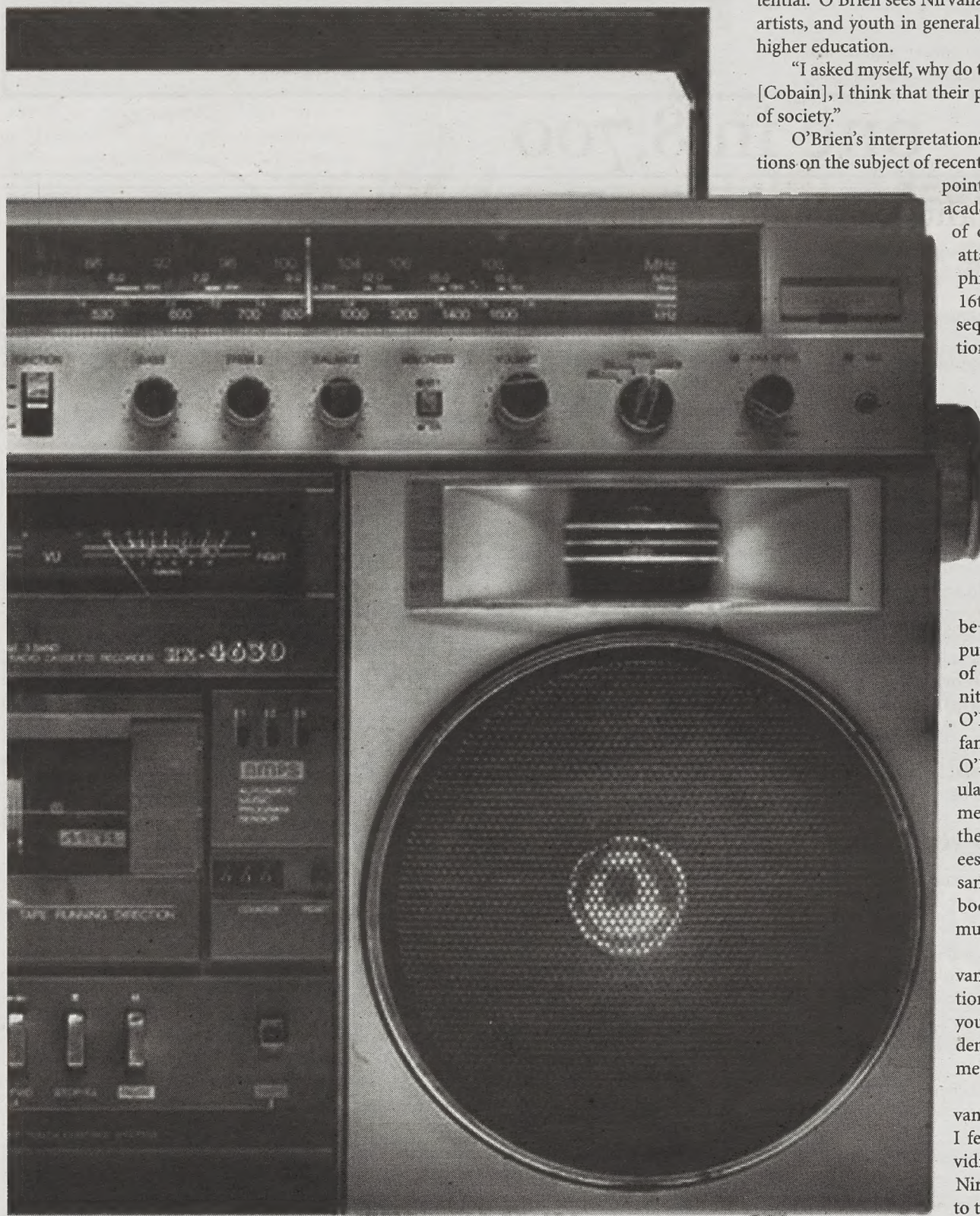
Chris Kirby, Adult Services and Technology Manager for the College, commented on the apparent contrast.

"I came away from the talk wondering whether the critical academic tools at O'Brien's disposal could shed further light on Nirvana's art," said Kirby. "Articulate academic discourse applied to a form of expression that is primarily inarticulate and nonconceptual seems to have its limitations."

In many ways, disparities such as these proved to be the underlying theme of the evening. *Rolling Stone* puts Nirvana at number seven on its "Greatest Songs of All Time" list, though the Ilsley Library Community Room smelled nothing like teen spirit. Instead, O'Brien spoke to a room of older Vermonters whose familiarity with Nirvana was apparently limited. As O'Brien ran through a brief history of American popular music, references to now-obscure musicians were met with looks of pleased recognition from most of the crowd, and perplexity from the younger attendees. Due to technical restrictions, low-fidelity song samples were played via cassette tape over an antique boombox in an unintended tribute to the pre-digital musical environment in which Nirvana flourished.

If anything, O'Brien's lecture was a tribute to Nirvana's success in its attempt to rattle the stale conventions of popular music and our culture at large. While younger audience members may have found the academic context troubling, Kirby acknowledged the immediately redemptive qualities of the lecture.

"A younger audience already familiar with Nirvana might find the talk less edifying," said Kirby. "But I felt that the main strength of the talk was in providing a context, one of many possible contexts, for Nirvana for an audience with no previous exposure to the music."



Meet a world traveler

Holly Stark, the work study coordinator at Mary Johnson Children's Center, took a roundabout way home, page 6.

Spin for Hope

Local women donate their leg power to a cycling fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, page 7.



Local Wanders



by Timothy O'Grady

Located in picturesque downtown Bristol, Art on Main has been supporting local artists and their endeavors for the past nine years. Art on Main is a "non-profit, community-supported artist-cooperative gallery" that exhibits and sells pieces of art of various mediums ranging from woodwork and photography to textiles and paintings.

The gallery is sustained by the Bristol Friends of the Arts — a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to providing opportunities for community members to engage in and appreciate artistic endeavors in the Bristol Area. In addition, featured artists play a role in sustaining the gallery as many decide to work volunteer shifts to fulfill the cooperative aspect of being members.

"Most of our 'staff' are exhibiting artists who have signed up to work shifts in the Gallery as part of their contract," said Carolyn Kay Ashby '94, the gallery manager.

Ashby worked several years at Frog Hollow Gallery upon graduating from Middlebury with a degree in Russian. Although she left Vermont to pursue other endeavors, she came back to Addison County to work at Art on Main as the gallery manager. Ashby works along side her fifteen-and-a-

half-year-old dog named Kayli who greeted me during my visit to the gallery.

"Kayli has been with me the whole way, and she very much enjoys her 'job' at the gallery," said Ashby.

The artistic ingenuity of the local community becomes highly evident at Art on Main. Visitors can browse through the vast selection of artwork, which varies from more typical renderings of the iconic Vermont landscape to interpretive wood carvings and glasswork. The light and airy atmosphere of the gallery is often accompanied by the music of local artists and it is a relaxing place to browse even if your college budget doesn't allow room for you to purchase original artwork.

One of my favorite local artists was Barbara Ekedahl from Lincoln, Vt., who has been focusing on the Japanese woodprint form "Moku Hanga." Ekedahl has an interesting series of works in which she prints historical maps of Vermont on a block of wood as a backdrop, then overlays it with a hand-printed silhouette image.

The woodwork of New Haven-based Keith Hall was some of the most ingenious work featured at the gallery. Hall created a series of walking sticks that had the heads of a duck, clown and giraffe carved into the handles.

The next few months will be a busy time at Art on Main as gallery events. From March 1 to 27, the gallery is featuring the Emerging Artists Exhibit, which shows artwork produced by students at Mount Abraham Union High School. The students' works were carefully selected by their teachers for the quality of the art and their potential to become future artists. Although the works are not for sale, the beautiful pottery, collages and paintings are definitely worth checking out.

Additionally, the gallery is preparing for the Third Annual Community Art Show, which will take place from April to mid-May. The basis of this event is to provide amateur artists a free venue to display and sell their works. Inspiring artists of all ages are encouraged to submit their favorite pieces to the gallery starting March 20 with the hope of being featured in the show. This community outreach event has been highly successful because it allows amateur artists to showcase their talent to the public and have the opportunity to make a profit from it.

"For community-based shows, all profits go directly to the artists," said Ashby. "It's a part of the not-for-profit community mission at the gallery."

This emphasis on garnering a community-based appreciation for the arts is evident by various other events held at Art on

Main throughout the year. An open studio workshop will take place in late May with artist demonstrations, followed by a series of featured artists exhibits with receptions throughout the latter half of 2010.

You don't have to be an art virtuoso to appreciate the locally crafted pieces featured at Art in Main. Stop by, take a gander at the work and don't forget to pet Kayli — the gallery's canine mascot — before you leave.

Art on Main

25 Main Street Bristol, Vt.

Gallery Hours: Mon. – Sat.

10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Open Sun. May – December

Call (802) 453-4032



Kayli, a familiar presence at the gallery, lounges among artistic look-alikes.

Courtesy

one in 8,700

where the personalities of middlebury proper are celebrated

By Claire Lewandowski

STAFF WRITER

Holly Stark, the work-study coordinator at Mary Johnson Children's Center, has traveled a long, winding path from Vermont and back again.

"When I was growing up I was just like some of the kids you may see here at the high school, just thinking, 'I gotta leave!' And I did leave," Stark said.

Stark grew up in Westford, Vt., "a small farm town," and she went to Essex High School, which Stark described as "one of Vermont's bigger high schools." After graduating, Stark, who did gymnastics, track, cross-country and soccer as a high-school student, hopped on her bicycle and rode across the country. She first went down to North Carolina, and then she made her way to Washington State, traveling back and forth between the two places for a few years and taking some time to explore the world before settling down for college.

"Nowadays there's some of that stigma surrounding those that take some time off between high school and college," she added. "I started college four years after high school."

After receiving her undergraduate degree in French from the University of Utah, Stark spent time in both Vermont and Colorado working as a bike tour leader. She went on to receive her graduate degree from the Monterey Institute back before it was affiliated with the College, intending to teach either French or English as a Second Language, but she was not finished roaming the globe.

"I taught at a lot of colleges," Stark said, including the University of Denver; Franklin College in Lugano, Switzerland; the University of Pittsburgh; and even Yale. "That's my big résumé-builder," Stark said, laughing.

So what finally brought Stark back to Middlebury and Vermont?

"In the Asian economic crisis, a lot of ESL teachers got laid off and I was among them," Stark said. "My husband was working for a dot-com and when that bubble burst, he got a job at Midd."

Her husband, Bryan Carson, is now the Electronic Services Librarian at the College, while Stark started working for Mary Johnson Children's Center, which her now eight-year-old son, Max, attended six years ago. With Stark and her husband finding job stability, Middlebury became their new home.

Stark's job includes interviewing and hiring work-study students from the College as well as substitute teachers.

"I also do a lot of communicating between the office and the teachers," she said. Her job also includes "a lot of clerical and administrative stuff" such as answering telephones, organizing paperwork, and managing the long wait-list for children to get into Mary Johnson.

Working at Mary Johnson, which accepts children from 18 months to five years old, has given Stark a lot of experience with local families from all parts of the socioeconomic spectrum here in Middlebury.

"We have children of professors and children of parents with other professional jobs," Stark said. "But about 50 percent of our children here receive subsidies from the state. There is definitely a difference."

Stark attributed some of the broad range in income levels to the College's presence, a factor which contributes diversity and opportunities to the town.

"I've lived in lots of different cities and so I really appreciate being in a small town — and yet having the addition of the College really enriches a small town experience," Stark said. "There are really different elements here that you normally wouldn't get in a small town."

After living and teaching in so many different places, Stark has finally come home to stay, where Middlebury represents a compromise between the urban aspects of a place like Pittsburgh and the farm-town-feel of a place like Westford, Vt.

"I spent most of my adult life elsewhere — most of it in the United States, but some time in Europe as well," Stark said. "And coming back, it's like, 'Yeah, this is really a good spot.' So you grow to appreciate that. Spending a lot of time away makes you appreciate Vermont more. I no longer feel that 'Oh, I gotta get out of here' feeling."

"I really enjoy living in Middlebury," Stark said. "It's a great place to raise a child."



Saila Huusko, Photo Editor

Holly Stark, work-study coordinator at Mary Johnson Children's Center, returned to her Vermont roots after teaching around the globe.

Localbrief

Local women cycle against cancer

by Apurva Damani, Staff Writer

Maribeth Gero's daughter Jessica was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma when she was 13 years old. Jessica has been in remission for 21 months, but her mother remains an advocate of cancer awareness.

"Cancer is extremely hard," said Maribeth Gero. "I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

Maribeth Gero joined activists of the same mindset at the Spin for Hope fundraiser on March 7.

The American Cancer Society organized Spin for Hope, which was held at Middlebury Fitness. The Middlebury gym was one of 37 fitness centers across New England hosting the cycling event, which lasted for three hours.

Begun in 2005 with six clubs participating, Spin for Hope exceeded its initial goal, raising \$115,000 in its first year. Five years later, the number of clubs has grown to 37. Last year the event raised \$350,000.

As of press time, Sunday's participants have managed to raise \$251,175.78 of their \$385,000 goal. Individuals and team members were expected to raise \$100 each to spin for an hour, in addition to the \$25 registration fee.

At Middlebury Fitness, the 12 participants, who were all female, took turns on the spinning machines. Most of them cycled for all three hours. Instructors Janet Morrison, Kathy Reynolds and Laurie Lowy guided the participants through the three-hour ride. The challenge was both physically and mentally demanding, and the women encouraged each other with stories of loved ones who had cancer. They also played uplifting songs, such as "I Run For Hope" by Melissa Etheridge, who had breast cancer.

"This song is inspiring," Lowy said. "Just change 'run' to spin; to spin for hope."

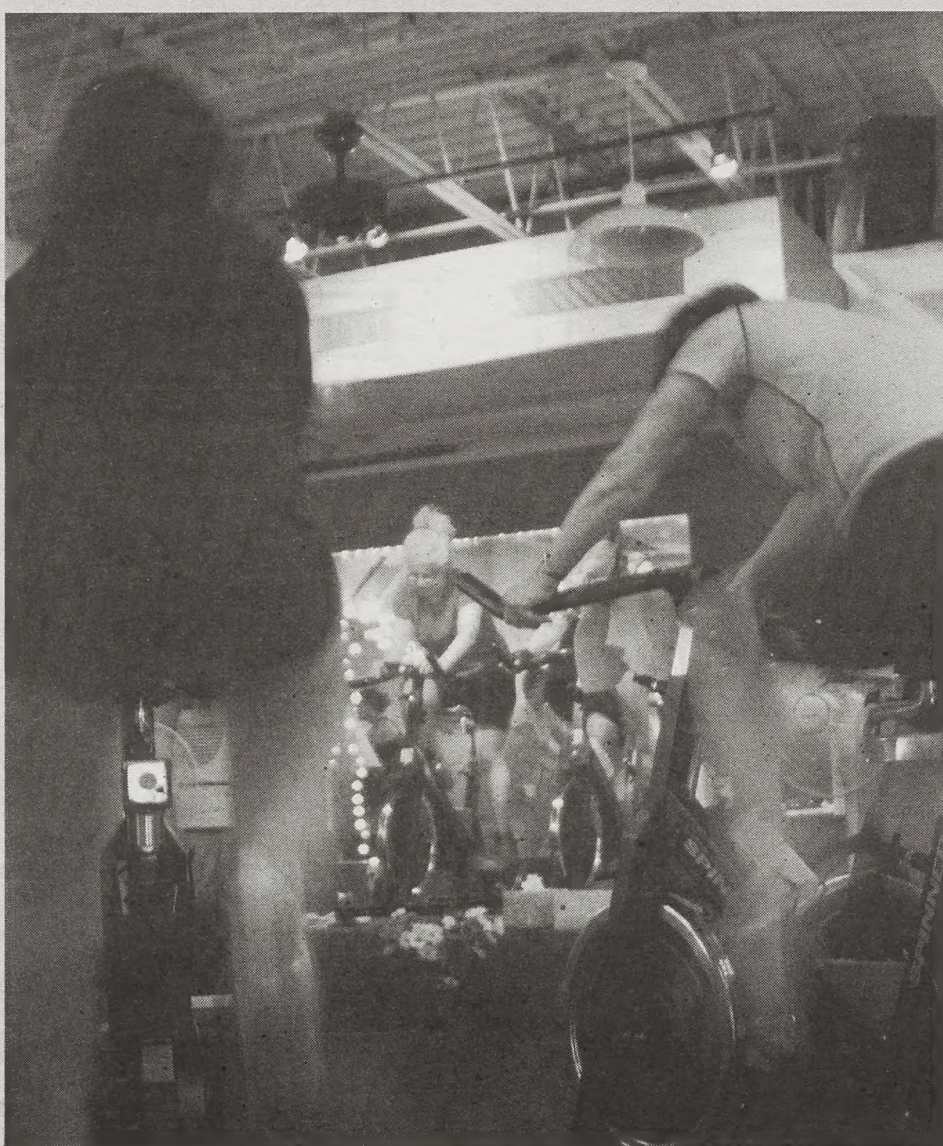
Maribeth Gero, who is the massage therapist at Middlebury Fitness, cycled all three hours to support Jessica, who also participated. The mother-daughter duo raised over \$200 together.

"I am proud of her," said Maribeth Gero, referring to her daughter. "I know [Jessica]

needs to forget, but she also needs to remember."

Having supported her daughter through the disease, Maribeth understands the impor-

tance of creating awareness. She hopes that fundraisers like Spin for Hope will allow for better technology to fight cancer.



Kylie Atwood

Cyclists pedal hard at Middlebury Fitness. The gym is one of 37 participating fitness centers that worked toward the American Cancer Society's goal of \$350,000 for all of New-England.

local lowdown

Town swing dance

March 11, 8-9 p.m.

The Sound Investment Jazz Ensemble, the College's big band, is sure to get your feet tapping at the Town Hall Theater. Grab a partner (or just your dancing shoes) and step out to a night on the town. Tickets are \$10, \$6 for students with ID, and they are available at the THT box office, <http://www.townhalltheater.org>, (802)382-9222 or at the door.

Zumba lessons

March 12, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Get into the groove at the Municipal Gym and burn some calories in this fusion of Latin and international music that creates a dynamic, exciting and effective fitness system. Lindsey Hescok will lead the free lesson presented by ACT Teens. Please call (802)388-3910 for more information.

Bill Burden benefit recital

March 13, 8-9 p.m.

International opera star Bill Burden '86 will perform at the Town Hall Theater accompanied by Emory Fanning. Tickets are \$40, \$30 for students, and all proceeds will go towards the Opera Company of Middlebury. Tickets are available at <http://www.townhalltheater.org>, (802)382-9222, the THT box office or at the door.

Making a living in organic farming

March 14, 2-3 p.m.

Richard Wiswall, author of "The Organic Farmer's Business Handbook: A Complete Guide to Managing Finances, Crops and the Staff — And Making a Profit," will give a presentation at the Ilsley Public Library on building a profitable organic farm for area farmers and any other interested parties. Please call (802)388-4095 for more information.

"Iguana Cup Challenge"

March 14, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bring your skis out to the Snow Bowl one last time for this family-friendly event for skiers, snowboarders and telemark skiers alike. Teams and individual racers will compete for the whimsical Iguana Cup and all proceeds will benefit the Quarry Hill School in Middlebury. Sign up at <http://www.quarryhillschool.org/iguana.php> or (802)388-7297.

"Creative Repurposing" workshop

March 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Learn to reuse materials that might otherwise be thrown away at this informal workshop at the Bixby Memorial Library in Vergennes. Bring in milk jugs, egg cartons, plastic shopping bags, old CDs or anything you think could be turned into something useful again. Pre-register at (802)877-6392.



From the Statehouse

3/5 - Governor Jim Douglas announced \$630,000 in funding for an affordable housing project for the elderly as well as money to make the Georgia and Bristol municipal buildings handicapped accessible. These grants will reach five communities in Vermont. Vergennes will receive the \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant that will be used toward improvements to infrastructure in the town.

3/4 - Health Commissioner Wendy Davis announced that almost one-third of Vermonters have been vaccinated against the 2009 H1N1 influenza. He celebrated this report as a great achievement but also cautioned Vermonters that they should still take measures to ward off sickness. During the outbreak of H1N1, 149 Vermonters were hospitalized and three died.

3/3 - Trout fishing will begin on Saturday, April 10 this year. Vermont's 2010 stocking schedule will soon be available. Anglers can go to <http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com> and click "Fishing" to see an interactive map of where different species of fish will be stocked.



The Middlebury Campus

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FOR ALL SECTIONS

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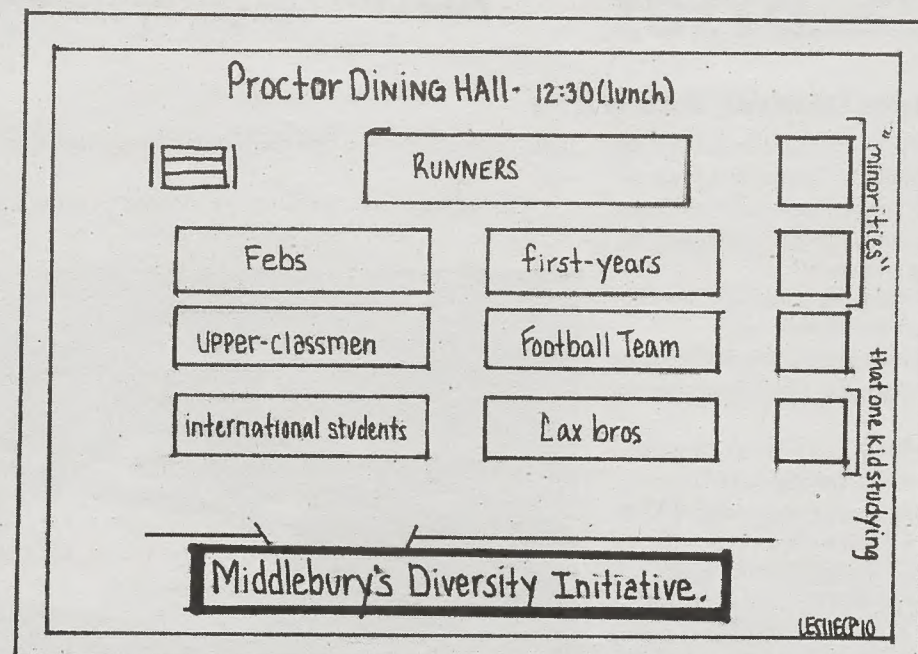
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Editorial

The staff editorial represents the official opinion of The Middlebury Campus as decided by the editorial board.

A drinking age endorsement

Over the past few weeks, these pages have seen a flurry of debate over the Minimum Legal Drinking Age (MLDA) of 21. This week alone, three separate pieces in the opinions section deal with the topic, and each of the last four weeks have included at least one op-ed submission targeting this contentious debate. In honor of the lively discussion, we have decided to endorse the goal of lowering the MLDA, particularly in Vermont, with a sincere effort made toward increased alcohol education.

We do not presume to propose a plan for how best to go about this ambitious action, but rather support more open and creative thinking on the topic — the ultimate goal being an MLDA that is pragmatic, safe and enforceable. The status quo is extraordinarily hard to enforce on college campuses, and statistics imply that the amount of dangerous binge drinking has skyrocketed in recent years. This was a fact confirmed by the two alcohol experts that kick-started the debate that has been raging, and the fervor caused by last weekend's visit of the Addison County liquor investigator demonstrates the difficulty college campuses face in enforcing MLDA-21. Simply lowering the drinking age to counteract these developments, however, has its own perils, particularly because expanding access to a substance in an effort to curb its use is a dubious proposition at best.

Instead of black and white propositions, we support further discussion that targets a solution that passes both the statistical and common sense tests. In his Notes from the Desk, Ian Trombulak '12 proposes one such interesting idea, but the discussion should not stop there. Different ideas for alcohol education, different degrees of a "drinking license," different ages at which you can legally consume vs. legally buy alcohol — all of these should be placed on a table and be subject to the scrutiny of experts, parents, legislators and kids.

In recent years, Middlebury has made headlines for being the home base of President Emeritus John McCardell's Choose Responsibility platform. While we hesitate to endorse his plan completely, we believe that his approach to the MLDA is correct, and support the idea behind his actions. Underage drinking is always a difficult topic, and on our pedestrian-dominated campus it is far too easy to marginalize the effects alcohol can have on a young brain when coupled with an automobile, but a logical debate on the benefits of lowering the MLDA can only lead to a new and improved status quo.

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Notes From the Desk: Ian Trombulak A license to drink

For the past month or so, the opinions pages of *The Campus* have played host to a dialogue regarding the minimum legal drinking age (MLDA) of 21. The latest such piece to appear in our pages was written by Dr. John Searles, in response to Nick Alexander's '10 op-ed on the subject. As someone with a few opinions on the subject myself and an editor of these pages, I feel that now would be an appropriate time to add my two cents.

Most of the debate over MLDA thus far has been frustratingly black and white: either we give people the right to drink the day they turn 18 or the day they turn 21. At either age, it's unreasonable for us to expect a new drinker to learn how to use this potentially dangerous and harmful drug overnight. Consider a similar example:

When I was 16, I got my driver's license. And it wasn't because the state of Vermont decided that, on the day I turned 16, I was suddenly ready to operate a vehicle on my own. It was because, over a span of two years, I took a driver's ed course in my high school, logged 40 daytime and night-time practice hours with my parents and passed multiple examinations, both written and practical, that indicated to the state that I was ready to graduate from a learner's permit to an operator's license. My path was regimented, regulated and graduated to allow for maximum learning opportunities.

We need to treat alcohol consumption as we treat learning to drive: as a calculated, graduated learning process. Here's what I propose:

When you turn 17, you can enroll in an alcohol education class, and upon completion of this course, you will receive your junior drinker's license. With this license, you can legally consume alcohol in your home, but you can't purchase it yourself and are held to a maximum BAC of 0.00 behind the wheel. The purpose of this is to allow parents to teach their kids, before they leave for college, what it looks and feels like to drink alcohol in moderate and responsible quantities. It would not open the floodgates to underage binge drinking because you wouldn't have 17-year-olds buying handles of vodka for 14-year-olds — just the former enjoying beer or wine with their families over dinner.

When you turn 18, you graduate to the next license. On this level, you can drink outside of your home but can't be in public with a BAC over .1. There is still no tolerance on the roads, and you still can't purchase alcohol from a store. At 19, the BAC limit goes away — by this age, you should know your limit

and crossing it should be a conscious decision. At 20, you earn the right to buy alcohol. At 21, we have a generation of people who have been gradually taught how to consume alcohol safely and responsibly.

I can't point to any peer-reviewed studies that tell me this method would work. Unfortunately, there are limits to what science can tell us — I'd be surprised to find an Institutional Review Board in America that would approve a study involving giving alcohol to underage kids. It's just not a feasible option and not a valid argument against MLDA-18.

I do agree with Dr. Searles in his assertion that our nation is captivated with the concept of alcohol. Interestingly, it has two faces, and which face you see depends on your age — it's either the devil's nectar and a punishable offense, or the essential component of any good social gathering. It's truly an insane contrast, and my point is that the line we use to distinguish between these faces is arbitrary. By lowering the MLDA, of course "hazardous drinking" will not "somehow, by some unspecified mechanism, turn into responsible drinking," but the reverse is also true —

three extra years of alcohol abstinence does not turn someone into a responsible drinker. It's a learning process, and we need to treat it that way.

Which is why I was upset to read Dr. Searles' assertion that "education on this issue is ineffective." I hope this isn't a call to abandon attempts to educate our kids about drinking, simply because it has been "ineffective" thus far. I'm insulted by the notion that my peers and I are somehow inadequate learners — after all the work we've done in the name of academia, we deserve more credit than that. We're all capable learners and have utilized this capability to its fullest on our path to and through Middlebury. This suggests to me that it's not the learners who are the problem, but the material and the methods. You can't teach me the logic behind MLDA-21 because there isn't any. When I turned 18, I gained the right to vote, fight in a war, own a gun and skydive, and asking me to "learn" that I'm not mature enough to drink yet is asking me to abandon logic and fall in step. Sorry, I can't get behind that.

I could, however, get behind a logical system of education through experience — something a bit more fitting for the reality we live in.

IAN TROMBULAK '12 IS AN OPINIONS EDITOR FROM MIDDLEBURY, VT.

campus policies and information

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Behind Enemy Lines: Andrey Tolstoy Rawr.

James O'Brien complained last week that everyone in the previous week's issue of *The Campus* was "so very angry, especially in the opinions section." Mackenzie Beer was roiling in hysterics over being labeled. The Republican columnist was seething at the spring. I wrote about manly stuff. All these negative vibes seemed to gravitate around one black hole of controversy: Tess Russell & Co.'s maligned "Where do I belong?" infographic. Online, a parent commented: "offensive, stereotyped content at its worst." A student seconded: "crappy." Mackenzie Beer reenacted the passions of St. Catherine: "A close friend of mine says 'struggle is struggle. It's incomparable.' Well, emotion is emotion, and right now I'm running on enraged endorphins. We box people into these blanket statements and associations out of a perpetual fear —" Shhh... There'll be no more AAAAAAAAAAAH-HH! but you may feel a little sick.

"Where do I belong?" is half forgettable copy-paste about bros and hikers, and half valuable taxonomy. For example, the distinction between Bros and Jocks is often overlooked ("Yo, there's so much you don't understand about me"), as is The Invisible Student. The Ross Diner is a new classic. The rest is dubious. In pursuing universal appeal, Tess & Co. assumed nothing would make more sense than to go for the really big stereotypes, when in fact, we're all sick of them — not because they aren't true, but because you have to change the joke if you want its subject to remain funny. Otherwise, it sounds like this knee-slapper from 1900 BC: "How do you entertain a bored pharaoh? You sail a boatload of young women dressed only in fishing nets down the Nile and urge the pharaoh to go catch a fish." That'll keep you going through the show.

On one point, I agree with — there is no pain you are receding, a distant ship, smok — "I believe in a place where I have a slight chance to surmount the confines of my upbringing." Yes, Mackenzie, that means inventing new stereotypes. James,

earmuffs! Here's my list:

The One. There are many: the kilt, the bathrobe, the head gear that has no human name, the head gear that has a name: tacky, the Michael Jackson pants. There are also many failed aspirants: the pea coat (everybody got one), the beret (your friends abandoned you), the naked (plastic leather seats, wiggle-wiggle).

The Classmate Who Works at Ross. You do a quadruple-take and reach your hand across the pizza counter for tactile proof — "You're one of *them* now?" "Dude,

I work here every Wednesday," a voice comes haunting back. You walk away, hand on your forehead — *when I was a child, I had a fever.*

People who answer the phone, "What's up, face?"

The Singer. Imagine silence. Dim lighting. The rustle of "The Communist Manifesto" — don't wrangle with us so long as you apply to our intended abolition of bourgeois property, the standard of your bourgeois

notions of freedom — WOAHH-WOOAHH-AAAAAAAAH-OOOOOOOOOHH YOUR BODEEEEEEAH — you grab the nearest brick and run to your window only to realize he's on the other end of the quad.

The Different-Colored Dwarves. Is anyone else noticing them?

The Balls. For that's what it takes to whip out a case of Mike's Hard Lemonade in Proctor, and **The Corollary to The Balls:** four glasses of milk, a tub of just salad leaves, a baroquely fashioned panini.

The Foreigners. A graduating Mongol says to a graduating Afghan: "I promise we'll keep in touch." The graduating Afghan replies: "Yeah right, once you go home, you'll have a son and a horse and no time to write." — *you are only coming through in waves* — "I look to a newspaper, and particularly the one which represents my college, my colleagues and my home, to aim for some higher understanding" — *just nod if you can hear me, and look no further.*

ANDREY TOLSTOY '10 IS FROM ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA.

He's a fun ruiner. He ruins fun.

— Alice Ford '10 on the Vermont liquor investigator for southern Addison County

Op-Ed: Nick Alexander

Vermont's out of touch 'health' establishment

In last week's *Campus*, Dr. John Searles defended the legal drinking age of 21 by doing what the establishment does best: lying. From high atop his bully pulpit, Searles graced Midd-kids with a letter to the editor devoid of relevant science and saturated with ridicule, even stooping so low as to accuse me, a college undergrad, of having spent too much time in the ivory tower. This, coming from a doctor and former professor who has spent more time in universities than I have on this earth. No one is disputing Dr. Searles' sterling credentials, however — only his so-called 'facts.' Searles' brand of argument is characteristic of an obtuse approach to student health that chooses to condescend to 18-20 year-olds, rather than listening to them. Searles contends that legal age 21 is saving lives, but that this law has been rendered "less effective than it could be because of the drinking environment in the culture." Here, Searles addresses the fundamental point in this debate and something all sides can agree on: the law exists, yet 'underage' drinking persists.

Agreement ends here, however. Searles chooses to explain this phenomenon by indicting American culture, observing that "adolescents are exposed to a stupefying amount of advertising extolling the virtues of drinking." First, 18-20 year-olds are *not*, by any reasonable legal definition, 'adolescents' — a fact that American law recognizes with relative ease when enlisting soldiers to fight in its wars. Second, as much as I appreciate Searles' misplaced paternalism, I cannot abide by his ridiculous implication that 18-year-olds are any more 'stupefied' by invasive advertising than 21-year-olds or, for that matter, 25-year-olds.

No one is suggesting, as Searles insinuates, that a blind reduction of the drinking age will automatically "result in a new, mature and responsible 18-year-old who will be sipping a vintage wine with meals." I am equally certain, however, that legal age 21 does nothing in the way of achieving Searles' wine-sipping ideal — an ideal that exists, and indeed thrives, in Europe (which, by the way,

has firmly embraced lower drinking ages). In comparison, legal age 21 has only driven drinking underground, forcing 'pre-gamers' to consume as much as they can, as fast as they can, out of the public eye and in the shadows of their dormitories, unmonitored and unchecked by bartenders and their more experienced peers.

This highly destructive pattern is taking its toll on our nation's youth through ever-increasing rates of binge drinking. According to a recent study conducted by the Harvard School of Public Health, college students experienced a whopping 10-percent increase in the rate of binge drinking between 1993 and 2001 alone, a development that corresponded with an increase in injuries, assaults and treatment for alcohol overdose.

Vermont is bearing the brunt of the casualties. Survey data published in 2007 indicates that Vermont ranks second highest in the nation in rates of alcohol use and binge drinking among 12-20 year-olds. In the face of this crisis, the Vermont health establishment remains firmly entrenched, preferring to defend the status quo rather than acting in the interests of its youth.

Only last week, new research was published by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America stating that the number of teens that have used alcohol has grown by 11 percent over the past year; this coming right on the heels of Dr. Searles' bizarre "None. Zero. Nada." declaration regarding data testifying to the failures of legal age 21.

It is truly unfortunate that, with a health crisis upon us, Vermont's own Department of Health has chosen willful ignorance over the substantive innovations proposed by organizations such as John McCardell's Choose Responsibility. Public officials are paid to lead; sadly, as demonstrated by Dr. Searles' letter, the establishment would prefer to mislead.

NICK ALEXANDER '10 IS FROM JAKARTA, INDONESIA.

Waters to Wine: Mike Waters In search of a "balance"

As somewhat of an addendum to my previous column about the Community Council's so-called review of keg policy, I thought I might lend my voice to the debate about alcohol that has been raging — probably unnoticed — in these pages for weeks. As *The Campus'* alcohol columnist, it is my duty to reiterate points already made, further polarize arguments and alter the level of discourse to my own designs. But I digress.

Most of the current uproar stems from an article published in *The Campus'* Feb. 11 issue, titled "Scholars debate U.S. drinking age." The article reported on the lecture, "From Global to Local: Understanding the Success of the 21-Year-Old Minimum Legal Drinking Age," a statistics-laden address delivered by two experts on the issue, who, based on the title, helped everyone understand (what they perceived to be) the success of the 21-year-old minimum legal drinking age.

In addition to sparing my readers any rehashing of the details (because the only thing less interesting to most students than this week's *Campus* news is last week's *Campus* news), I'll spare everyone my critical response to the lecture, as Nick Alexander '10 has already ably refuted many of the arguments in his Feb. 18 op-ed.

Instead, I'd like to stab at the heart of the issue, the woman who brought the lecture to campus — and who seems to be waging a not-so-clandestine war on drinking at Middlebury — Jyoti Daniere. Many of you may know Jyoti as the woman behind "Let's Talk About Sex" Month and all other activities intended to jump-start our libidos, as well as the woman responsible for clogging up our inboxes with the

latest dispatch from the Office for Health and Wellness Education (sorry, Midd-kids, but with the combination of sex and spam, it looks like it is in fact *Jyoti Daniere* who "gets in box like Gmail" ...). However, few of you may realize that in contrast to her pro-sex message, Daniere is notoriously conservative in regards to collegiate drinking culture.

To me, these disparate views on two related issues seem the mark of a hypocrite. For only a hypocrite could be quot-

One would assume that a person so progressive in her attitudes towards sex might be similarly inclined to reconsider our notions about alcohol.

ed in the same paper (Feb. 11) as advocating for more balance and less stress for students, saying, "Priorities should be established; thereby balancing the pressure to achieve and excel with the necessity of joy in one's life," while then (in another article) stating, "there is ample research showing that the more a student drinks, the lower his or her GPA ... a fact that may be of interest to all our hardworking students," thereby bringing the discussion back from joy to GPA. Further, her "Campus Character" profile in the aforementioned issue

makes for wonderfully entertaining reading, with additional quotes that make Daniere appear as out of touch with the general student zeitgeist as does her choice of e-mail fonts.

Daniere has made her name (and what a difficult one it is) as an advocate for increased dating and healthier sex lives on campus, a goal with which I take no issue. However, what I do have trouble understanding is her vendetta against collegiate drinking in all its forms; one would assume that a person so progressive in her attitudes toward sex might be similarly inclined to reconsider our notions about alcohol. Instead, Daniere seems to see drinking as at the very bottom of what ails our dating culture (or supposed lack thereof). And while it may play a part, I think that encouraging more freedom on the one hand while restricting the other seems a woefully unbalanced policy. Much of the real reason for our campus' primitive attitudes toward sexuality and dating stems from our society's puritanical and undeveloped attitudes towards sex; might our problems with drinking stem from a similar attitude? I'm for increased freedom in both venues, be it the bedroom or the bar-room. Instead of demanding "balance" only to stipulate which kinds of balance are acceptable, perhaps we should all relax, unwind and just do what feels good.

Of course, we can file this all away with the other "Great Ideas Mike Has For Making His Middlebury Life Better," along with no non-athletes in the dining hall after 6:30, re-breading the chicken parm in Proctor and eliminating the Office for Health and Wellness Education.

MIKE WATERS '10 IS FROM BEDFORD, MASS.

Op-Ed: Matt Birnbaum

Does Middlebury College really care about the planet and its people?

It's quite easy nowadays to vilify Big Business and conglomerated corporate interests. In fact, in a way, it's become even fashionable — certainly not much of a surprise after watching the financial giants pull enormous profits out of thin air, cause a near collapse of our economy and then steal (under the guise of a federal bailout) our taxpayer money. Can you even feign shock that they are now actively (and productively) lobbying to ensure regulatory reform never sees a congressional agenda?

And it's not just Michael Moore running around with an empty sack, pestering the old white boys at Goldman Sachs either. On the other side of the spectrum, Republicans are winning elections on the premise that they are "small government," riding the tide of Wall Street v. Main Street sentiment falsely peddled out to a frustrated electorate, tossed around as pawns in a game of consolidating private wealth. *As if any politician was for small government (do I hear private military contracting, anyone?).*

However, under our current growth-driven economic system, it's necessary for institutions to invest capital in order to support those industries that construct the fabric of our material lives. Moreover, in a globalizing society, commerce and trade are becoming even more important, as the means of production become more geographically diffuse (regardless of the condensation in ownership).

But industry, as we are all well aware, looks mostly at short term profits and ignores externalities — environmental and social costs not directly borne by the producer or consumer. Cheap goods from Wal-Mart rely on cutthroat competition, leading to the promotion of unsafe sweatshop labor and unparalleled pollution. Private transportation and energy inefficiencies are pumping CO₂ into the atmosphere on a massive scale, causing global climate change and ground level ozone pollution, etc. Coal companies are blowing up mountains, the global fisheries stock is drying up and industrial farming is ruining our water supply (think swine flu, MRSA and E. coli are bad?). It's almost too much to handle. Meanwhile, these costs are invisible to the accounting sheets of industry. Managers pursue record rates of return on in-

vestments, increasing the bottom line to the applause of the short-term profit seeking shareholders.

Sound like a bad Bernie Madoff-esque screenplay? If only that were the case — rather, it's the story of our very own Middlebury College and the rest of our peer "growth-olympian" institutions. This Ponzi scheme is broader only in the sense that we're borrowing profits from natural resources and sinks, societies and cultures — setting up to watch the problems mount and collapse over civil society in the near future. It looks like sour grapes have been sitting in clear sight for a while now. And the speculative economic bubbles will leave more than a couple hundred New Yorkers without a 401(k).

Middlebury revels in its image as a school that projects social responsibility, internationalism and sustainability. Subsequently, you may think that with an institutional endowment of \$740 million, the community would have some clue as to what companies this collective legacy of ours is funding. We don't. The College Sustainability Report Card gives us a "D" for endowment transparency, and we lack accountability for any so-called "investment priorities." Something needs to be done.

We pretend to actively address the problem by consolidating our investments under a single management group, Investure LLC, which features pretty pictures of rolling hills and smiling people on its Web site. The Board of Trustees repeatedly ignores the cries from student groups, the Faculty Council and our beloved scholar-in-residence, Bill McKibben. As an educational institution with a motto that reads "Knowledge and Virtue," Middlebury cannot help but look like a complete and utter hypocrite unless it addresses the need for Socially Responsible Investing through our endowment.

To me, this gets at the heart of the problem. *Our \$740 million legacy is silent as to where its priorities lay but represents the future of a school running its mouth at every opportunity it gets.* Sustainability this, global responsibility that. Diversity. Social work. Environmental justice. Clap it up, friends, we've got one hell of an image to be thankful for.

We claim to embrace global challenges, training students and thinkers who will go off into the world and make it a better place. Yet our legacy, as embodied by our current investment strategy, is paradoxically at odds with our institutional message. I'm sorry, but while I may have chosen a liberal arts college for an interdisciplinary education, I do not need a duplicitous lesson in morality.

Worse yet, our endowment is, in effect, subsidizing the very powerful inequities that we simultaneously send our students out to defeat. Not only are we saying one thing and doing another, we are saying one thing and doing many things to ensure we'll never be able to stop saying it. *As a college with a conscience, we are literally firing guns at a reflection of ourselves that we don't like, and accordingly training students in making sure nobody steps barefoot on the shattered glass.* It's a terrible contradiction to be getting for the hefty \$50,000-a-year price tag I'm paying.

Of course, there was no mention of an SRI Sustainability Fund in the president's Trustees update e-mail, and instead merely the laughable suggestion by Frederick Fritz '68, the chair of the Trustees, that something with any transparency or autonomy had been created. *The Campus's* characterization of whatever decision the board made as a new opportunity for students "to evaluate whether or not certain companies the College invests in live up to Middlebury's sustainability standards, something they were able to do only minimally in previous years" is patently untrue and misleading. Furthermore, contrary to some reports, the recommendation by the ACSRI that one percent of the endowment be moved into a separate fund was outright rejected, and any move made will be a fraction of that number, remaining within Investure's Global Equity Fund.

But hey, what can you expect when the money's on the line, right? And just for the record, I've been sincerely trying to (but just can't) see how \$200 million disappearing virtually overnight can be conceived as a viable investment strategy. If you'd like to let me know, I live in Hepburn 110, and

MATT BIRNBAUM '12 IS FROM DIX HILLS, N.Y.

Op-Ed: Rhiya Trivedi

Refusing to settle for nuclear

I am tired of pragmatism, of "centered" political views, of sacrificing change for compromise. In the past year, I have watched as those in power touted the Canadian oil sands as a solution to weaning America off foreign oil; as they turned universal access healthcare into something simply less exclusive than what is offered today and allowed genuine financial reform to slip under the bailout bus; as economic, ecological and community sustainability was sacrificed and change at a snail's pace championed instead.

What adds insult to injury is when young people settle for this — when they decide, "something is better than nothing." Idealism is the resource of which we face the greatest deficit today. We cannot abandon it.

Which is why last week's local news column ("The Pragmatist," March 4) in favor of replacing Vermont Yankee with a new nuclear power plant is disheartening. Because nuclear power is just another stopgap solution. Engaging in energy intensive uranium mining (which is a finite resource), navigating arduous regulatory processes, bypassing technological bottlenecks and paying the tens of billions of dollars required for construction are not economically justifiable or sustainable possibilities.

The past year has shown us that the impending "nuclear renaissance" is a fallacy. A nuclear power bid was killed in Ontario, after total cost was estimated at \$26 billion. A plant in Finland was only halfway through construction when the government declared it had already run \$4 billion over budget. Turkey offered its ratepayers nuclear power at a staggering cost of \$0.21 per kilowatt hour (twice what we pay today). The cost of storing waste in Nevada jumped 38 percent to \$96 billion.

Vermont Yankee itself announced two years ago that it was going to offer one third of the energy at two times the price if its post-2012 permit were to be issued, while estimates have found that the most recent \$8 billion in nuclear power tax credits will create a grand total of 800 permanent jobs (\$10 million per job?).

We have to believe that we can do better. A day will come where we have no choice but to use the sun and the wind, so we have to believe in the power of American ingenuity to overcome technological,

infrastructural and economic barriers to clean energy today. We have to remember that time during WWII, when within nine months of going to battle, the entire capacity of the nation's prolific automobile industry was converted to join the war effort. We have to believe again that this country (and specifically, this state) is capable of achieving

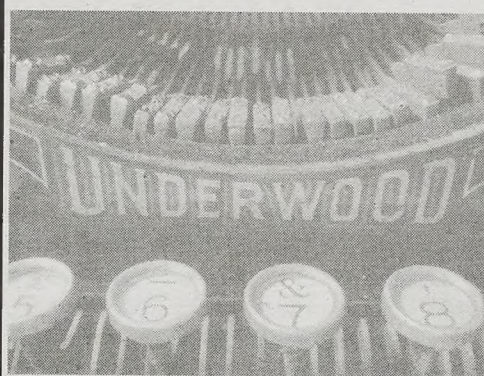
unbelievable things and that we can push for more than a transition solution.

So do not short-change the fact that the price of wind, solar, biomass and energy efficiency has been proven to fall dramatically with rapid deployment. Do not doubt our capacity to implement new innovative policies like feed-in tariffs and utility decoupling to help weatherize every home in Vermont and incentivize rooftop solar in the immediate future. Do not sacrifice the green jobs or the greater connectedness that could be brought about if communities were empowered to produce their energy locally, or the willingness of Vermonters to use less electricity in the name of a greater good.

Choose nuclear power if you want to, but don't feel like you have to. We are

RHIYA TRIVEDI '12.5 IS FROM
ONTARIO, CANADA.

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RELIGION REALIZED: Midd alumni share spirituality and understanding of Catholicism

By Michelle Smoler and Lauren Davidson
Photo by Nicolas Sohl, Photo Editor

The origin of the word "Catholic" comes from two Greek words — *kata* and *holos* — which together mean "according to the whole" and over time has been more simply translated into "universal." With Christianity as the most practiced religious tradition in the world, and Catholicism as the most practiced branch, claiming over one billion worshippers, this definition is fitting. Its huge following is based on the gospel of Jesus Christ and the importance of faith, all organized under the Pope, Benedict XVI.

"[Catholic] is the universal church," said future Diocesan priest Scottie Gratton '09.

"You can go anywhere in the world and you can pray in a Catholic church and you will be doing the exact same thing that someone else is doing halfway around the world," he said.

Along with strength of community, Catholicism derives much of its appeal from its rich history and spiritual ties to the past. "There's a real deep, deep tradition in Catholicism and I love that," said Gratton. "There's things that we do that have been happening for over 2,000 years; every single tradition has its purpose."

Practices such as adoration and communion work to achieve success in the overall purpose of the spiritual search: to experience a fulfilling connection with God and a faith with the power to open up one's mind and soul.

"I'll go into the chapel for an hour," said Gratton, "and they'll put the Eucharist out ... and I'll just sit there and listen in silence: 'What is God trying to tell me, what is Jesus speaking in my heart right now?' There are just certain aspects of that in Catholicism that I love."

But what does it mean to be Catholic? "I kind of went through the motions for a lot of my years," described Gratton of his spiritual journey into the Catholic faith, "and it was at Middlebury that I started studying other religious traditions and figuring out that there's a real identity in them. It helps you get closer to God no matter where you are on the spectrum and I decided I really want to understand more about what Catholicism is and it was here that I really started to say, 'What does it mean to be Catholic? Is it possible for me to be like that?'"

Along with beliefs common to all Christian faiths, Catholicism specifically adheres to two principal beliefs that must be accepted by all members of the Catholic Church. The first is belief in the Holy Trinity — that God is unified in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The second is the belief that Christ has a true presence in the sacrament of communion, or the Eucharist.

"When the priest changes the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ, there is such a deep and profound sensation that you get when that happens ... There's so much power to be received from it."

The existence of the Eucharist is a huge part of what sets Catholicism apart from other sects of Christianity, that Jesus is physically present on earth in a "mysterious" way.

"Believing in [the Eucharist] does not mean you have to fully understand it," explained Marie Lucci '08.5, "because

no one really can."

Though these beliefs are essential to the Catholic faith, there is more to being Catholic than prayer and scripture. As true supporters of the creed "Love thy neighbor as thyself," much of what Catholics identify with is the concept of giving back to the world community and, through that, creating a personal connection with God.

"It's one thing to go to church every Sunday and say you're Catholic," said Gratton, "but there's so much more out there. It was when I actually started doing things with the Church and helping people out that I realized how much I loved Catholicism and how much I just grew in love with God from it."

Catholics see vocation as a calling from God, with deliberation under the principles of faith and reason. Much like wedding vows, one must make a vow to dedicate his or her life's work to God.

Despite the complexity and enormity of the Catholic Church, Lucci has founded her faith on a personal and spiritual level.

In Catholicism, the call to action is a critical moment in the religious journey. For most, that call may be married life, but for Lucci, it is the sisterhood. At the early age of 15, she attended a youth conference where she first felt drawn to religious life.

"It was literally just like a moment," said Lucci. "It just felt like this inner hunger, this inner desire to do something bigger than myself, and this wanting to respond in a full, total way. It felt like that was the answer."

Lucci is currently preparing to become a nun in an order in Spain, where she will also become involved with religious education programs. Once with the order, she will live a modest lifestyle under the three vows of the Catholic clergy: poverty, chastity and obedience. But to Lucci, her religion is more than just a set of rules and beliefs.

"It becomes a way of life, so what I believe of God's love has to affect my life."

This way of life is not an easy one. Lucci will be living in Spain indefinitely, and she must leave her friends and family life for a new one in her religious order. But Lucci sees the order as an opportunity to give her service and passion to a wider community by becoming "a sister to the world." The road to religious life is a long one, and despite the liberal nature of a Middlebury education, Lucci's college experience helped her to question and ultimately confirm her religious aspirations.

"I was willing to put the intellectual side of studying 'liberal things' to the test," she explained. "Does my faith hold up to that?"

And so far, Lucci's faith has. Throughout her time at Middlebury College,

Lucci tried to experience what it meant to be Catholic on a secular campus. In her endeavors, she became friends with a rabbi, tried out the dating scene and explored her education just like any other college student. The call to the sisterhood was always in the back of her mind, but she had come to Middlebury with the intention to keep her options open to other opportunities.

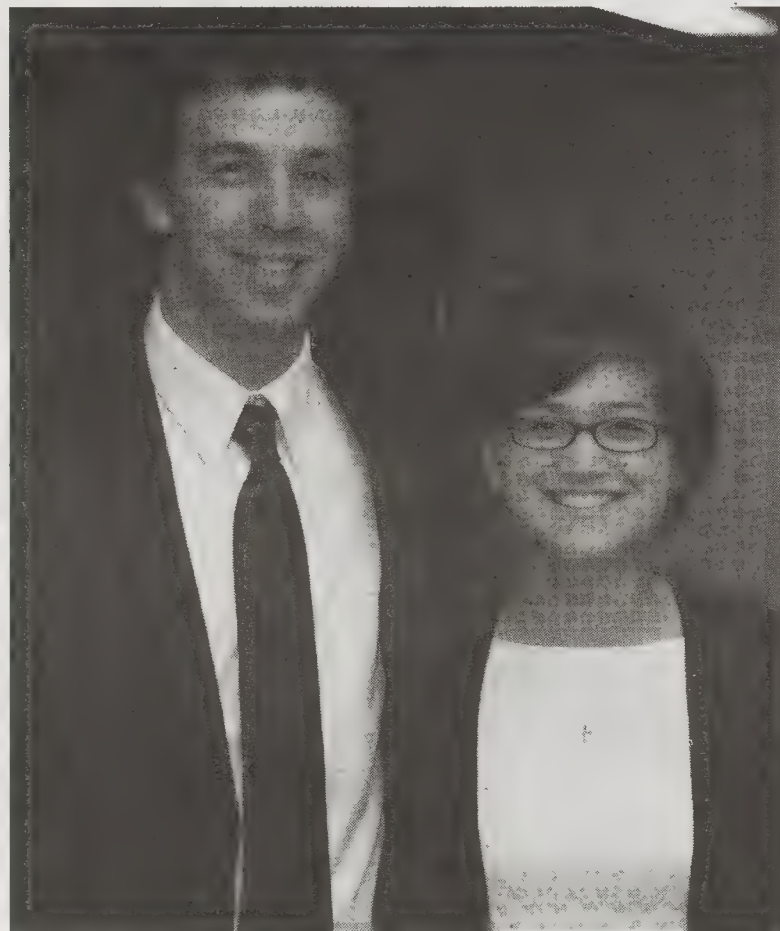
"A vocation is not something like a train — if you don't get on, you're going to miss it," she said. "A vocation is more like a natural spring. As you're standing near it, you start seeing the water rising."

After grappling with the choice between a traditional love life and the religious service, Marie made the ultimately difficult decision to travel abroad to an order where she will be completely immersed in her commitment to the three vows, as well as the strong community the order provides.

Though a vocation can be a very personal choice, Lucci sometimes feels as though hers is out of her control and in the hands of God.

"Looking back on my life, I keep seeing the same patterns and if I'm reading them kind of right, that's who I am," Lucci said.

Fully aware of the gravity of her decision to join a religious order, Lucci explained that the fulfillment she will experience while in God's service is one she could not obtain in any other facet of her life and that, in the end, it will be more than worth the sacrifice.



Courtesy
Scottie Gratton '09 and Marie Lucci '08.5 discuss the impact of their decisions to lead religiously devoted lives after attending Middlebury College.

**PART TWO OF AN ONGOING SERIES
ABOUT RELIGIOUS LIFE ON CAMPUS**

Explore the East

Symposium strips societal stereotypes surrounding India, page 12-13.



Giving Liberty a lift

Documentary and discussion examine American concepts of beauty, page 15.



You've Got Mail!

Get to know David LaRose of the mailroom, page 14.

Middlebury deromanticizes India

India: the land of Bollywood, curry, the Taj Mahal, Kama Sutra, snakes, elephants and plenty of folklore. For most of us halfway across the world, the recent economic boom that has catapulted India to the international stage in recent years seems at odds with our more romantic and exotic perceptions of India.

There are other preconceived notions as well — the stereotypical Indian, according to comedian Russell Peters, is a brown-skinned, God-fearing, curry-eating computer genius with 100 cousins and a pronounced Indian accent accompanied inevitably by the special left-to-right head jiggle.

But what actually lies behind these common perceptions of India?

That is precisely the question that the spring 2010 symposium “De-Romanticizing India” attempted to answer. Through the lens of politics, history, religion, art and culture, it aimed to give students a glimpse of the paradox that is India.

But where does one even begin to understand such a vast, diverse, complex and dynamic society? Between its Northern and Southern, Eastern and Western extremes one can find a varied topography of mountains, deserts, beaches and hills and an even more varied cultural fabric interwoven with extremes of a more drastic nature.

Combine the image of the country's poor and illiterate millions with a soaring GDP of about seven percent, even during the recession, and you will begin to see some of these complexities and contradictions.

India has the world's third largest number of billionaires; it also has a poverty rate of 42 percent. Even different states within India are on extreme ends. For instance, Kerala has a literacy of 91 percent whereas Bihar stands at lowly a 47 percent.

These are just the disparities that can be expressed through numbers. Behind these figures lie many more contradictions that are not explicitly stated but nevertheless spill into the lives of Indian citizens — like the persisting Hindu-Muslim conflict, the narrowness of the education system and social challenges like the caste system and the practice of dowries.

As an ancient and vibrant civilization, a country of 1.5 billion people, the largest democracy in the world, India struggles with its various divisions of language, ethnicity, religion and culture.

The purpose of the symposium “is to show India as it is, not in the old clichés inherited from colonialism and Rudyard Kipling, but as a complex, diverse and changing country and society,” said Jeff Lunstead, professor of South Asian Studies. An escape from the India of pop culture, or the Orientalist views that have long dominated discourses on Southeast Asia, this symposium attempts to understand India — its domestic and international dimensions — in a holistic manner.

“We wanted people to walk away with a full-bodied view of India,” says Vrutika Mody '11. “India travels on its own planetary orbit — it is more than an economic powerhouse and more than just another China,” she said.

“There is growing interest about India at Middlebury College,” said Lunstead. “Those who want to deal realistically with the emerging world, in which countries like India and China will play an increasingly important role, need to learn about India.”

— Urvashi Barooah and Vedika Kahanna, Staff Writers

Keynote Address: A New U.S.-India Relationship

The dynamic between India and the United States was the focus of the keynote address that kicked off last week's symposium. Karl F. Inderfurth, who worked in the U.N. and for the U.S. government specializing in South Asian affairs, gave the speech.

Inderfurth started out by stating that India has a big role to play in today's political climate. “India has emerged as one of the rising powers in the 21st century,” Inderfurth explained. “Along with China, it is one of the major powers on the Asian continent.”

He then went on to state why the United States must engage with India. Inderfurth mentioned the global environment, a desire to maximize economic trade as reasons for U.S. involvement in moving the South Asian region toward stability. Many of the points he made centered on the power the two countries would have working together to create a positive change in the world. “The United States is the world's first democracy,” he pointed out. “India is the world's largest.”

The relationship between the two nations was not always so stable. It was only after the Cold War, once India began to open itself up to other nations, that a true bond was formed. “It has been a transformation from a country with which we had an estranged relationship and democracy to one where we are engaged democracies.”

However, Inderfurth admitted that he was afraid that the publicity India is receiving because of its booming economy would create an unrealistic expectation of what it can achieve in the present. “We don't have to look at India through rose-tinted glasses,” he said. “What we need right now is a realistic outlook for the nation.”

Two of the main problems India faces is maintaining its high economic growth and dealing with challenges such as infrastructure and poverty. Inderfurth added that Manmohan Singh's government is aware of the domestic challenges it faces. “India sees itself as a developing country,” he explained. “An advanced country, but a developing country.” As of now, India's rising population is an advantage, because the booming economy has stimulated job and education opportunities.

Another aspect of the India-U.S. relationship Inderfurth focused on was where China fit in to the picture. In the past, India and China have had continuous border disagreements that created tension between them. Both nations have come together to work on their relationship, and China is now India's largest trading partner.

“The U.S. needs to engage China on its merits as it does India,” said Inderfurth, “and not get into a competition or a competitive triangle between the two. It should be a cooperative triangle, not

a confrontational triangle.” Collaboration between the three nations could lead to great progress on important issues, such as climate change and energy security.

Overall, “Looking at India in a realistic sense of where it is and what challenges it faces and what it can accomplish is a good idea and one that will be well served in this symposium,” said Inderfurth.

Students leaving the address felt they had a better understanding on India-U.S. relationships. “This was a good beginning for the symposium. I think Inderfurth did a very good job of presenting the international perspective on India,” said Mourtaza Ahmad Ali '12.

Yuan Kang Lim, another sophomore, said, “It's interesting because U.S.-India relationships aren't talked about much in the media. It's a topic of increasing importance for us and I think it's important to look beyond common stereotypes and a superficial understanding of India.”

On March 5, a panel on “temporary India” met to discuss the complexities of India. The panelists included Saleem Ali from UVM, who was a panelist from Hopkins.

The panelists gave an overview of India with regard to the environment, the Muslim conflict, “The talk was about similar issues like religion, politics, and backgrounds,” said Saleem Ali.

Saleem Ali highlighted that India was ranked #123 (one of the lowest) in the index designed by Columbia University.

“Overall, the Indian go-

Panel: Indian Foreign Policy and Global Outlook

The foreign policy panel held last Thursday at the Franklin Environmental Center in Hillcrest focused on the tumultuous relationship between India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Lisa Curtis and Walter Andersen, two experts on South Asia, spoke about the dynamic between the three countries and its effect on the region.

After the Cold War, India made an effort to take its place as one of the leading nations in the region. According to Andersen, the country greatly improved its security system and adopted liberal economic reforms. Opening up its economy to others forced India to reach out to other nations. "It's the largest country in the region by far, and it's long taken the stand that it should more or less structure the foreign policy of the region," said Andersen.

However, India has had troubles with other countries in South Asia ever since gaining its independence in 1947. Pakistan and India in particular have always had a strained relationship, and Curtis admitted that it was difficult to remain optimistic at times. Indian citizens are still smarting from the devastating attacks that took place in November 2008 that were believed to have been perpetrated by extremists from Pakistan. The most recent talks between the two countries took place on Feb. 25, but according to Curtis, were held because of "international pressure rather than changed views."

One of the main areas of contention between India and Pakistan is Afghanistan. "Afghanistan has become new battle ground for the Indo-Pakistan problems," said Curtis. "Kashmir is no longer the main issue. Now both countries are vying for influence in Afghanistan. India has developed relationships with the political players in the country, and Pakistan feels threatened by this, so this has caused a huge rivalry."

India has a very large presence in Afghanistan. It is the nation's fifth largest aid donor, giving nearly \$1.5 billion dollars to various projects taking place there. It also has one of the largest training programs for new bureaucrats, army officials and policemen, and many Afghan students study in India. India's involvement in the country is even more evident by its five consulates and an embassy, which was attacked twice in 2008. The attacks only made India more determined to strengthen its relationship with the Afghan government.

According to Andersen, Pakistan sees India's strengthening relationship with Afghanistan as an existential threat. "What India needs to do is open up talks to Pakistan in an effort to convince them that they're not trying to open up a two-front threat against them," said Andersen.

However, India is currently debating sending troops to Afghanistan. The United States and India have a similar viewpoint on the situation in Afghanistan. In fact, India is one of the strongest supporters of the surge. Where their views differ is on the 18-month timeline President Obama

announced for the troops' withdrawal. "They see that as something that will encourage Taliban and Al Qaeda to stick to what they're doing and they are afraid the Afghan army won't be strong enough to withstand them on their own," said Andersen. India is already the only nation to have its own personal security forces on the ground.

"The flashpoint for the Indo-Pakistani rivalry is Afghanistan," said Curtis. Needless to say, the future of the three countries is inextricably linked to each other. While there are hopes that one day, through peaceful negotiations, an understanding will be reached, Curtis admits that the chances of this happening in the near future are slim.

The dynamic between the countries is extremely complicated, yet the panel was able to break down the relationships into clear points. Mirwais Hadel '12 gained a newfound perspective on the situation after the panel discussion. "I think it's really useful for students, and it's interesting to see how the U.S. reflects on issues in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and India. It's helpful, because they have a broader understanding of the situation," he said.



Panelist explains some of the complexities surrounding Indo-Pakistani rivalry. Kylie Atwood

Panel: Domestic Issues in Contemporary India

On March 11, a panel on "Domestic Issues and Challenges in Contemporary India" met to share ideas surrounding some political complexities in India. The panel was composed of environmentalist Ali from UVM who specializes in South Asia, Walther Anderson from Johns Hopkins University and Safa Mohsin Khan '12. The panelists gave an overview of the domestic challenges of India with regard to the environment, party politics and the Hindu-Muslim conflict. "The talk was great because people were addressing similar issues like religion and development from different perspectives and backgrounds," said Kyle Olsen '10. Ali highlighted the need for India to adopt a more environmentally friendly road to development. He pointed out that India was ranked #123 (one spot behind China) on the environmental index designed by Columbia and Yale universities.

Overall, the Indian government has not been very forthcoming on these issues. There is a normative debate between development and environment," he said. When asked what suggestions he had for a more environmentally friendly path to

development, he suggested the Taiwan and Malaysia models but did not elaborate on how India would reconcile its huge population and coal intensive production methods with these smaller models.

Ali pointed toward the strength of India's civil society and grassroots organizations for environmental protection. "Because India is a democracy, better sense will prevail in terms of reducing this rampant degradation," he said, highlighting Chinese efforts to reduce environmental degradation by comparison.

On the political side, Walther Anderson discussed the consequences of party politics in India. "The Indian parliament mirrors the population of India," he said. He gave a brief history of Indian politics highlighting the long domination of the Congress, eclipsed only recently by the Hindu nationalist party, the BJP. He also talked about the inevitability of a coalition government in India due to "social issues."

He highlighted two crucial aspects of the future of Indian politics. First, "Indian politics will be centrist. It is already moving towards being centrist because of its complexity," he explained. Second, he said that "change is going to be incremental. 'You won't have revolutionary change. It just won't happen.' Despite its gradual

pace, the Indian system is incredibly open and change will ultimately be realized, Anderson explained.

Safa, on the other hand, gave a more personal account of her experience with another major domestic challenge of India: the Hindu-Muslim conflict. "The tension between the two groups is such that it simmers beneath the surface and can explode at any moment," she remarked. She also described the polarization of Hindus and Muslims with regard to neighborhoods in her hometown of Meerut, saying that it was "unhealthy."

She specifically mentioned two events, the Babri Masjid Demolition and the Gujarat riots, which really shaped relations between the two communities. "It's not the riots themselves but their aftermath that is the scariest part," she said. She lamented that Muslims in India are also politically under-represented.

"My family votes for the Congress because it is the lesser of the two evils," she said. She also commented on the suppression of their language, Urdu, which is not taught in local schools. She ended her talk with the question, "Is India really secular?"

Grace Gholke '13 found Safa's personal perspective was very much valued by the audience. "I found it very intriguing to hear personal experience," said Gholke, "because sometimes to hear about unfamiliar things in a very abstract, academic way is hard to connect, so it's always good to hear about how these issues are experienced by people within the country."

Beyond the Symposium: Success powers forward

After a packed week of lectures and panels, the symposium ended with a return to the popular elements of the "romantic" India. A showcasing of Bollywood through the movies, "Rang De Basanti" gave a candid insight into the corruption that is present in the highest portals of Indian government. Indian food complete with generous servings of spicy curry and naan bread were offered in celebration of Holi on Saturday. The symposium concluded with a performing arts show, Midd Masala, which had performances by dance troupes from several colleges dancing bhangra, fusion and garba.

Even though the task of de-romanticizing an exotic country like India is an arduous one, students and faculty alike feel that the event has been a success. "I think the symposium was a good starting point to help unfold the various 'unspokens' about India," said Vrutika Moody '10. "It's hard to map how perceptions change but I do think that it brought important issues to the forefront. Even introducing the idea that India has such dense challenges like environmental degradation and Hindu-Muslim ties up ahead impressed upon students that the gleeful atmosphere in Bollywood movies was not always accurate." She

acknowledged that it was difficult to unfold all the nuances of India within a week, and hoped that the symposium would encourage students, professors and townspeople to want to research or visit India more.

Mody attributed the diverse people interested in the symposium — even people who had never taken a class on India or had never been there to the "multi-cultural nature of Middlebury. Students of all majors can see a fitting spot in India's development," she said, whether through art, economics, history or environment and the symposium tried to cater to that. Another encouraging factor was the number of townspeople who attended the events. "It shows the depth and breadth of interest in India not just in the college, but in Middlebury as a whole," said Professor of South Asian Studies, Jeff Lunstead.

Overall, the symposium was indeed successful in unpacking the several layers that form the complex Indian society. While the stereotypes still persist, it has enabled people to see it in a new light, in the realities of its challenges as well as strengths. As Anoushka Sinha '13 puts it, the symposium generated a lot of "Go India!" spirit on campus.

staffspotlight

David LaRose

From rural Vermont to the coasts of Vietnam, David LaRose, supervisor of the Mail Center, has never lost his genuine sense of humor.

David was born in Bristol, Vt., a town just north of Middlebury, and he attended Bristol High School, graduating in 1968. Eighteen-years-old and just out of high school, David enlisted in the Navy in January 1969.

He spent his first three years stationed in the U.S. In his last year of service, he spent his time on a Navy cruiser, patrolling the Vietnam coast. On the ship, LaRose served as a storekeeper, distributing to his fellow service members everything from missile parts and computer equipment to toilet paper.

Serving a supporting role for the troops on the ground, the guns on their ship were constantly firing at the Vietnam coast. The guns could reach as far as a mile, with each round weighing about 135 lbs and stretching four or five feet in length. At nighttime, LaRose's ship would venture into harbors so as to shell the coast at a closer range.

Aside from managing the supply shop and carrying around 135 lb missiles, David also handled the phones that connected the ship to the medical staff on the ground. The medics would call LaRose and relate to him medical information about wounded and killed service members who would then be brought to the ship.



Courtesy

"We saw casualties," LaRose recalled.

After his four-year stint in the Navy, David spent a short time in California. It wasn't long, however, before he retraced his steps back to Vermont. He began working at the Vermont State Liquor Store in 1973, where he worked for approximately 15 years. The store was located where Shaw's is today.

David also got married in 1973, had a daughter, Jennifer, in 1974, and was divorced by 1975. He doesn't look back on it with too much regret.

"I won custody of my daughter," he said with a proud smile.

Shortly thereafter, David remarried to Carolyn, who also had a daughter of her own named Jennifer. Carolyn works in the Athletic Department at the College.

In 1985, David initially applied to work at

Middlebury College as a mail clerk.

"I went to my interview, and the lady told me I was overqualified. No one had ever told me I was overqualified in my life," he quipped. Not long after, he applied for and was hired as the supervisor at the Mail Center, where he has been ever since.

In his free time, David watches movies and listens to music. He prefers rock and alternative. He likes everything from the Beatles and Springsteen to Kings of Leon, Linkin Park and My Morning Jacket. Aside from flicks and tunes, David is enjoying watching his granddaughter, Alexxis, grow up. Between his work, family, and hobbies, David has little time for politics.

"I should know more than I do," he admitted. "I would never not vote, though. I always vote. But I'm busy enough taking care of myself to get too into it."

LaRose is also a huge baseball fan, sticking with the New York Yankees for 50 years and running. Not only that, he played in an over-30 baseball (not softball) league for 15 summers. His team was the Middlebury Coyotes, and it played in a nationally-sanctioned league. LaRose was the president of the league and the manager of his team — and he played first base.

Looking back on his service in the Navy, David said he is very proud that he served. Even so, he wishes that he would have had some time between his discharge and when he had to get back into civilian life.

"I had a really negative outlook when I came back from Vietnam. Even though I wasn't in direct combat, I couldn't even watch war movies for six or eight years after I got back."

He has kept some infrequent contact with three or four fellow service members. A few even surprised him for his 40th birthday.

Asked what students could do to make his life a little easier, LaRose had this to say: "Be patient and label your packages better." He noted that the Mail Center handles thousands upon thousands of packages and does it with very few mistakes. Despite the daunting task, he said he loves the students and his coworkers.

"We are laughing all day," he said.

Questioned about whether he had any life advice for students, David said, "Oh geez. Well, definitely keep a sense of humor. I can tell you that. Make sure you laugh at yourself. Stress can eat you up if you let it. And don't forget to hold on to your best friends."

—Conrad Trimbath, Staff Writer

New tenants see if they can 'cut' it at OSM

By Rafferty Park
STAFF WRITER

Heard of the Old Stone Mill? If the current board members have anything to say about it, you will.

With the spring term comes a new set of voices for the future of the Old Stone Mill (OSM), as three new students join its team. Each semester, students have the opportunity to apply for open positions on the board as three of six members end their two-semester terms. This semester, Kyle Hunter '12, Hilary Platt '12.5 and Annie Makela '11.5 were selected to join the group after submitting applications and interviewing with Ron and Jessica Liebowitz. They join incumbent members Jake Moritz '11, Cate Brown '12 and George Heinrichs '11.

The fresh faces of the board hope to further publicize the OSM and, in doing so, encour-

age their fellow students to foster creativity. For Hunter, the ingenuity of his peers is inspirational in itself.

"I decided to get involved with the OSM because so many students at Middlebury are incredibly creative," said Hunter. "I feel strongly that, as a campus, we need to work on encouraging and promoting the innovative work that students do outside the classroom."

One myth the OSM board members would like to clear up: the space is not limited to use by visual artists. Current tenants include (but are not limited to) writers, musicians, bloggers, entrepreneurs, clothing designers and hosts of the somewhat self-explanatory "Dinner with Strangers."

The group agrees that this type of thinking is essential to success beyond the mental and temporal confines of the academic world.

"It's very important for students to have

space to be creative and think outside of the essay-writing, problem-set lifestyle," Platt said.

The group's current priorities are the new Web site and the upcoming launch of a blog where visitors will be able to read posts by tenants and board members alike. They have also been discussing potential future events open to all students. Ideas include an Earth Day project and regular discussions that might begin at the OSM and then move to another informal setting such as 51 Main at the Bridge.

In general, the board members plan to create a more integral presence for the OSM in the college community. "We're hoping to make it more a part of campus, not just a little house by the creek," Platt said.

Interested students are encouraged to visit the OSM, which is located above the Storm Café on Mill Street, or the additional spaces

in the Annex at 75 Adirondack View. Alternatively, they can visit the Web site — go/OSM — where they can view a mission statement, the list of current tenants, an application for workspace next semester, contact information and upcoming events.

The relatively new group has a great deal of collaborative ambition for the semester, but it cannot overstate the importance of involvement and interest from the student body.

"Our small student board of six has already become a small family with the support of many faculty," Makela said, "but the real inspiration of OSM does not come from the board members, but rather, from the tenants themselves."

"The possibilities for OSM are endless," Hunter said. "We are really excited to see how the future of both the building and the innovation for creativity at Middlebury takes off."

Despite rumors, inspector uses restraint

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the party hosts for enabling underage drinking.

"I heard he had underage college kids that were going to come into the house and try to drink, then bust whoever's house it was," said Courtney Mazzei '11.

Addison County liquor inspector Michael Davidson denied the action, but allowed that the liquor inspector could always use such tactics in the future.

"That didn't happen, I can tell you that," he said. "Could it? Technically, sure. But did it? No. We use any tactic at our means. We just don't rule out anything ... If they're not doing anything wrong there's nothing to worry about."

Rumors regarding the liquor inspector's ability to enter and search student rooms have ultimately proven false. For that, the liquor inspector would need a warrant.

"No one's going and kicking in doors to private rooms," Davidson said. "When there are civil and criminal offenses taking place, that's what we prosecute."

"We have no authority in the dormitory, and if any of our officers went in there they'd be in trouble for doing it," Vermont Department of Liquor Control Commissioner Michael Hogan agreed.

"The campus is no different from any other entities in the state of Vermont," said Davidson. "It's not a sanctuary."

The liquor inspector, however, isn't just a fun-buster — the position's primary focus lies in regulating licensed establishments that serve alcohol.

"Our main focus is with Title Seven (alcohol beverage statutes) and so we're worried about institutions on campus that over-serve somebody to the point of intoxication," Hogan said. Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah, however, noted that the inspector does have authority to cite students for "internal possession" of alcohol on campus.

"If I see someone going in and it's obvious they're young and intoxicated, there are laws that give me the right to identify them," Davidson said.

The liquor inspector, in fact, possesses the same powers as the Vermont state police.

"They're certified law enforcement officials and they can arrest anybody," said Hogan.

Vermont statutes mandate that if underage drinking is taking place, law enforcement officials must take action. This seems to imply that when Public Safety discriminates in giving citations, it is breaking the law. In fact, however, Public Safety is merely acting within its role as a non-law enforcement agency.

"Even though we want to uphold the law, we don't have the power to enforce the law," Boudah said. "Our way of holding people responsible is through our student judicial system," not legal action.

Despite differing enforcement methods, both Public Safety and the liquor inspector theoretically work towards maintaining a safe environment.

"The colleges in the state do pretty well — they're aware of the liabilities and they do their best," said Hogan. "It's not an easy job, being an administrator."

It's hard for both organizations, however, to reduce student drinking, and no one is certain whether the liquor inspector's presence on campus actually helps.

"I do think they have an effect [on Middlebury students], but I'm not sure if [the liquor inspector] helped" curb binge drinking, Boudah said.

President Emeritus and the College's resident liquor policy activist John McCardell expressed similar concerns about the effect the inspector's visits have had on campus safety.

"Has alcohol consumption been reduced? Or is it being forced into more clandestine locations? And if the latter, can we say that enforcement is effective?" McCardell wrote in an e-mail.

Smith wondered if safety is truly the inspector's primary concern.

"I think, overall, he has instilled a sense of fear of throwing large parties," he said. "In lengthy conversations I have had with the inspector who oversees Middlebury, not once has the word 'safety' been mentioned."

Inspector Davidson virulently disagrees. "As a state entity, our primary goal is for public safety," he said. "What we're motivated to do by enforcing the regulations is to encourage and support [safe behavior], so that's our goal."

Film questions beauty standards

By Ashley Cheung
STAFF WRITER

When students opened last week's all-campus e-mail advertising the presentation of the film "America the Beautiful," the familiar image of the Statue of Liberty stared back. However, she was accompanied by surprising suggested improvements, such as a nose job and breast implants. Perhaps the most striking aspect of the e-mail was the tagline: "Is America obsessed with beauty?"

Beyond the e-mail, are there realistic reasons to ask this accusatory question? Common Middlebury images suggest a partial answer: the ever-crowded fitness center with an abundance of girls reading magazines on the elliptical; jocks grunting as they lift weights; the girls in the dining hall carrying plates of scrawny looking salads or half a grapefruit while looking longingly at the apple crumble.

"America the Beautiful" follows filmmaker Darryl Roberts on a two-year journey to examine America's obsession with physical perfection, and this R-rated documentary doesn't airbrush the truth. Roberts unearths the origins and deadly risks of our nation's quest for physical perfection and shows how the increasingly unattainable images portrayed by the media contribute to the rise in low self-esteem, body dysmorphia and eating disorders for young women and girls.

The screening on Thursday, March 4, was sponsored by the Office of Health and Wellness Education, and Jyoti Daniere, director of Health and Wellness at the College, chose to bring this film to Middlebury in hopes of "providing an understanding of how the advertising industry works and how it manipulates not only the images it produces but the self-esteem of individuals as well."

"I hope that it will start a dialogue among students that challenges the idea of a beauty ideal," said Daniere. "I also wanted offer a realistic picture of the dangers and complications associated with plastic surgery, which this film does nicely — the huge number of plastic surgery shows on TV make it appear safe, afford-

able and always successful."

How did students react to the screening? Would it actually change their perception of beauty?

"I had already heard the general message of this film before the screening, and I think it's an important thing to think about, but I don't see any permanent changes being made from one documentary," said Claire Lewandowski '13. "It's easy for us to critique the models and

I don't think Middlebury is obsessed with beauty. Everyone wears sweatpants to class.

— Lisa Tabacco

magazine editors in the industry, but what would you do if you were in their situation?" If you were offered a high paying modeling job, would you take it, even knowing that the industry would Photoshop your body, creating a false and unobtainable image of beauty?

When asked if they thought Middlebury was obsessed with beauty, students had a variety of answers. On one hand, some students did not find beauty of grand importance on campus.

"I think at Middlebury we accept many different kinds of beauty," said Lewandowski. "Students are free to express their own style. You see everything from kids with crazy hair to athletic types to students in polos to outdoory types."

Lisa Tabacco '11 responded saying, "I don't think Middlebury is obsessed with beauty. Everyone wears sweatpants to class. I think people care about being thin and in shape, but that doesn't necessarily mean the same thing as being beautiful. There are more factors involved."

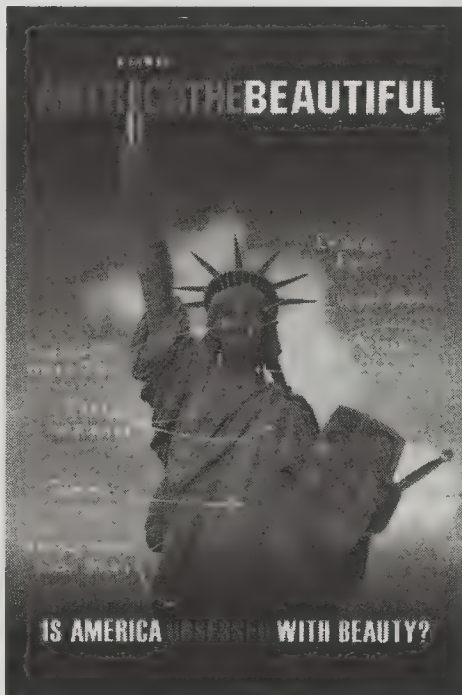
Others found more importance in the concept of beauty: "I believe in self-improvement and I believe that one should always look their best to feel their best," said Michael Crittall '11. "The way I dress is part of my personality. Looking good affects how you portray yourself to others, leading to good impressions.

Your looks are part of your identity and give you confidence."

Jyoti Daniere expressed her suspicions that Middlebury "reflects the national statistics that suggest four percent of college students suffer from eating disorders and nine out of ten college aged women struggle with disordered eating. I think many young men and women are preoccupied with their body weight, size and diet and this diminishes their enjoyment of their lives."

But what exactly defines this illusive concept of beauty that so affects perceptions and impression on campus and in American society more generally? The documentary and discussion urged attendees to ask the question: What does beauty mean to you?

According to Lewandowski, "It comes down to being happy and confident. If you're taking care of yourself and your body, you're portraying yourself in a certain way, making others care about you. I think something to keep in mind and understand is that what's normal is often what's beautiful."



Courtesy

Darryl Roberts' documentary reveals explicit scenes regarding the horrors of plastic

The L-Word



Writing a sex column for a small college's newspaper has not garnered me any sort of national (or even local) renown as a sexpert as far as I can tell, and I never expected it to. But I have been hoping that somebody besides my friends (who already asked for advice before I started this column) would ask for some help. I could go on and on with my thoughts about every aspect of sex from fetishes to marriage, but I would much rather write what you, my small readership, want to read. I am thus extending a formal invitation to drop anonymous notes in my campus mailbox (2215) if you like the way I think about sex and you want me to apply my extensive base of sex articles and experiences (both mine and ones I've heard about) to your life. Send 'em on!

That being said, I can start by responding to one of the few questions I actually do get pretty frequently, besides how to obtain a partner: "Okay, so partner — check. Sex — check. Woohoo. But now we're getting bored with it — what do we do?" If you either don't have a lot of sex or you jump into bed with a new person every weekend, the idea of sex getting boring might sound a little preposterous. But truth is, if you're sexing on the regular without working for it, with the same partner and the same script every time, it gets to be like watching reruns of your favorite TV show. It's still fun and way better than doing your homework, but you already know what's going to happen and it lacks a certain thrill. So what do you do?

No one can tell you specifically what to do — *Cosmopolitan* and a host of other magazines will try, but burn them, please — because it all depends on what you and your partner like. Not sure what you like? Congratulations! You have reached the threshold of experimentation, and things are about to get really, really fun. And possibly kinky. All of those things you never, ever thought you would try — you know what I'm talking about, the ads blinking across the bottom of the vanilla porn you watched that one time (or yesterday), the multitude of products in Good Stuff on Church Street in Burlington — are now an unlimited set of options.

I'm not saying we're all secretly kinks just waiting to be unleashed, though more people than you might think have a briefcase full of blindfolds, feathers and handcuffs in their closet, but I do think if you get to a point in your sex life where you and your partner are both left wanting by what you've always done, then logically it is time to try something new. New doesn't have to mean ball gags or group sex or trying to install a sex swing in your dorm room (though it can), but it does mean a certain level of open-mindedness.

Before you embark on your experimentation, as always you need safety and consent, but beyond that I'll borrow a term from one of my favorite sex bloggers: GGG, or good, giving and game. It's a maxim I strive for in any sexual encounter, but it's especially important in a long-term relationship when the sex needs a little spice.

When you and your partner start experimenting, it should be good — whatever you try should feel good and be a product of good communication. No dripping hot wax on your partner's junk without talking about it first, etc. You and your partner should both be giving — everything you try doesn't have to turn both of you on, but if it does for one person and the other doesn't mind, add it to your repertoire as a couple. And certainly you and your partner should be game — leave your preconceptions behind and show up willing to have a good time with each other's reasonable requests.

Lea Calderon-Guthe '11.5 is a local news editor from Chapel Hill, N.C.

Cooking (not) by the Book

I have to hand it to Proctor, they've done a pretty great job recently with their stir-fries. I was impressed with chicken and broccoli, and while I'm not a tempeh aficionado, my friends were raving about it at dinner the other night. Furthermore, what's not to love about days with pretty much perfectly sliced grilled chicken for lunch? What I'm trying to get at is that though this column is based around the idea of creativity in the dining hall, it's hard to be successfully creative without a good raw product. Over the past few weeks, I've found myself being less and less outlandish in my creations, simply because what the dining hall has created for me has been really good. Instead of going big, I've been focusing on embellishments: a salad here and a sauce there that help spice up a balanced, delicious main dish. So in today's column, I'd like to share some of the smaller tips I've developed over the semester that help make already delicious dishes that much better. Because I like alliteration, let's title it "Salads and Sauces."

The Staple Salad (only better)

I've noticed a pattern around the lunch table: despite the fact that the Proctor salad bar is seriously well stocked, most people (myself included) tend to eat the same salad every lunch or dinner. To jazz your salad up, try one of these simple tips:

1. "Wilt" your spinach.

I'm a big fan of spinach over mixed greens, and "wilting" it in the microwave has produced some seriously desirable results. Us-

ing a ceramic bowl (plastic does badly in the microwave), just add spinach and drizzle some olive oil over the top. I'd say lightly cover the leaves, but don't drown them — you don't want it to get soggy. Pop the bowl in the microwave for about 30 seconds, and you'll be all set! I'd also recommend adding some feta — it's a great complement to the warm spinach, and soaks up some of the olive oil!

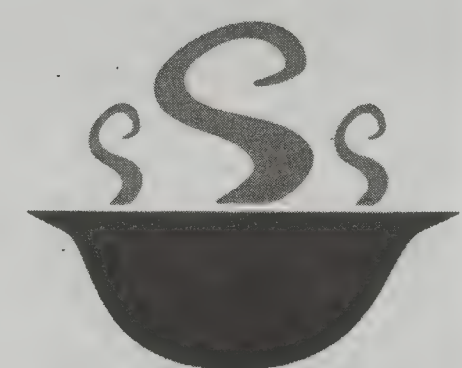
2. Marinate your tomatoes.

Another easy step that goes a long way: before you start assembling the rest of your salad, grab one of the tiny bowls from the dessert table and fill it with balsamic vinegar. Grab some cherry tomatoes from the salad bar and slice them in half, and then put your tomato halves in the bowl. Let them soak up the vinegar while you make the rest of your meal, then dump the tomatoes and vinegar on to your salad with the dressing. The tiny tomato bites will be packed with flavor...a taste explosion, if you will.

Get Saucy

1. Peanut-Sesame Sauce

This Thai-inspired sauce has saved many a boring chicken panini for me, and it's really easy to make! Grab a tiny bowl from the dessert table and fill it up halfway with sesame oil. Add in a spoonful of Dijon mustard from the sandwich bar, and mix in some regular (not natural) peanut butter. The ratio of ingredients is up to you: if the sauce is going into a Panini, you might want to up your peanut butter quantity, but if you're going



for sesame noodles, you'll want to go lighter on the peanut butter so the sauce is a little less thick. But, as always, it's to your taste!

2. Pesto-Balsamic Dressing

For those of you hoping for something a little more inspired than the usual balsamic vinegar-olive oil salad dressing, here's a quick tip to add some flavor: in a bowl, mix balsamic vinegar, olive oil, pesto sauce and Dijon mustard. Whisk it together and pour immediately (so your oil and vinegar don't separate) over your salad. Voila!

Sometimes, it's important just to make the little things count. A well-placed sauce or slightly jazzed-up salad can make all the difference in a mundane meal, so try it out! Don't get stuck in the salad bar rut. And props to you, Proctor, for giving me such a satisfied meal week that most of my creativity came "on the side."

—Maggie Moslander

mixin' & mashin'

student DJs on campus reveal all to *The Campus*

by Laura Kasprzyk, Staff Writer



DJ Dube aka Aubrey Dube '12

Home Base: Gaborone, Botswana

Preferred Programs: Serato and Virtual Deejay

Origins: As a young teen, Dube's deejay friends inspired him to join their ranks, leaving his former position as "hype man." This ethic remains in his deejay style, however, as Dube relishes the challenge of pleasing the crowd. His attitude reflects the love of the intuitive art form: "I keep it organic and spontaneous. I just like things that are done in the moment. That's actually why I'm into deejaying."

Multitasker: To ensure everyone at the party has a great time, Dube tests songs from certain genres and reads "the rhythm and flavor of the crowd" to figure out what songs to play, all while keeping an "arc" within his greater set list. This "arc" refers to the beats per minute of songs Dube chooses, starting with a medium pace, speeding up to an apex, and slowing down as the partygoers tire and the party splinters off.

Favorite Memory: After the Roots concert, Dube deejayed an afterparty in Palmer. Not knowing what to expect in terms of turnout, Dube was pleased when the house was packed to capacity — even the walls were covered in sweat — and a few people thought he was a professional deejay brought in with the roots instead of a Middlebury student!

Find Him at: The Bunker, Palmer, Coltrane, French House, Atwater Suites

Claim to fame: At the bunker, responding to a crowd that wanted upbeat dancehall music, Dube remixed the "Midd Kid Rap," celebrating his own YouTube success. Expect more remixes out of Dube, who likes to play around with various instrumental and vocal tracks. "Everytime you deejay, sometimes it's kind of like you're making a new song out of songs that already exist."

DJ BENNO aka Ben Schiffer '10

Name origin: Childhood nickname given to him by his mom

Program: Traktor Scratch Pro by Native Instruments in conjunction with CD Turntables

Hands-On approach: Schiffer is a turntablist, and uses the moving top platter of his mixer to control much of what he does. His turntables and his computer program talk to one another digitally. His style values performance as well as music. As Schiffer says: "I try to keep it interesting for the crowd and myself alike."

Origins: Tracing all the way back to his childhood in Baltimore, following his mother to radio stations, Schiffer cultivated an interest in music and the role of the deejay. As a young teen in Israel, he explored the club scene and had his first opportunity to deejay at his own Bar Mitzvah, testing out the equipment of the hired deejay. After moving to Vermont, Schiffer was involved with a band and learned about sound. He bought his own record turntables on eBay and watched online videos to learn the tricks of the trade. Beginning with gigs for friends' parties, Schiffer gained experience, skill, and confidence while adding onto his equipment.

Schiffer describes his role as a deejay: "I want to play something that is going to keep the crowd not only happy and dancing, but interested ... You want to give them a tune or some lyrics that they can sing along to, that they have heard before, and then you want to put something on top of it that makes them say 'Where did that come from? I want more of it.' You're constantly playing with this thin line of 'How far do I go before I go back to the roots a little bit?' Or 'How much do I give them the roots before I throw them another curve?'"

A Memorable Morning: Schiffer deejayed at the Monday morning film call for the "Midd Kid" club scene. Everyone in the production was exhausted until the exuberant extras arrived, ready to dance. The McCullough stage transformed into a crazy dance party, complete with a slip n' slide starting at the deejay booth. And then, unlike at typical dance parties, filming finished up mid-morning and cast and crew alike went on with their Mondays. As Schiffer described: "I can remember deejaying parties until 4 or 5 in the morning, but never have I started at 7. And it was incredible."

Find Him At: McCullough, Bunker (has performed both solo and in a duo gig with Officer Chris aka DJ Mixwell), 637 College Street (the former "Giggle Pit"), 82 Adirondack, Tavern, Forest, Pearsons, LoFo, Atwater Suites, Two Brothers Lounge and Stage, various private parties around Addison County

Student of music: Schiffer observes fellow deejays for inspiration, and has relished opportunities to meet professional deejays through Middlebury College; he fondly described the experience of chatting with Girl Talk, collaborating with DJ Milkman at last year's Winter Ball, and hanging out with DJ Earworm this year. Schiffer also admires the late DJ AM for his work in collaboration with other musicians, and notes the influences of Notorious B.I.G., The Beastie Boys, and Fatboy Slim in his own work as well. Schiffer's personal music tastes range widely: "I think anything I listen to outside of a deejay gig, in one way or another, influences what I'm going to play."

You can see DJ BENNO at Two Brothers Lounge and Stage Saturday, March 20 and Saturday, May 1.



photo courtesy of- Graham Cook



DJ Emmanuelle

aka Emmanuelle Saliba '11.5

Home Base: New York, N.Y.

Program of Choice: Traktor at Middlebury, Serato Scratch Live when using turntables

Origins: Saliba has always been interested in music, but during her Feb-mester became involved in the NYC and Paris music scenes, especially gaining an interest in electro. While attending Columbia University during this time, Saliba maintained her own music Web site which further entrenched her in the NYC music scene. When Saliba arrived at Middlebury, a friend asked if she'd deejay a party based upon her impressive repertoire. Saliba downloaded the program (Traktor) and learned how to use it in 30 minutes for her friend's party, thus starting her deejay career completely unintentionally. In preferring the program Serato Scratch Live, Saliba values the older, hands-on tradition of vinyl records and scratching while acknowledging the convenience and necessity of the use of the mp3 song format. A true student of music, Saliba enrolled in Professor of Music Peter Hamlin's electronic music class and is studying the basics to grow as an artist.

Signature style: "I play a lot of heavy bass music and a lot of dub-step. I guess a little bit unapologetic about the music I choose. I don't really like to cater to the crowd." While Saliba doesn't compromise the broad genre of electro music for crowd acceptance, she also strikes a balance between the cutting-edge and the popular, holding back from what she would play naturally. "I try to throw in a lot of different things to keep it interesting, and I think it really plays off of my personality too ... I really find a median in between what Middlebury students can hear, what they're able to hear, for something that's so new, because I understand that it's so new, and something I'd like to play."

Find her at: Palmer, Mods, Mill, Tavern, MCAB events, last year at 82 Adirondack

Claim to fame: Remember how badly you wanted to get into the Baile Terror party on Halloween? Saliba was deejaying with her mentor, DJ Alexander Technique.

Trial by fire: While her first gig ever was playing for friends at Red Door, her second gig ever was last year at MCAB's Haus event in Kenyon arena — she still had the demo version of the Traktor program and when it quit during her set, the audience thought it was an effect!

You can see Emmanuelle in action this upcoming Saturday in Lower Forest for a dub-step event, or in April deejaying for Ross Commons' Brazilian Carnival. Check out Emmanuelle's music at www.soundcloud.com/g-bender, a collaborative effort with Anastassia Paloni '08.5.

DJ Geoprim

aka Tyler Madden '12.5

Home Base: Seattle, Wash.

Programs of Choice: Traktor for DJing, Ableton Live for production

Origin: Starting with the so-described "cheesy trance" of Robert Miles' track "Children" in the 7th grade, Madden cultivated his appreciation for electronic music from a young age. His music tastes have evolved from electro through electro-house, techno and now dub-step, a brand new genre of electronic music combining elements of reggae, hip-hop and techno which emerged from London's music scene in the early 2000's. Madden began DJing in high school and had his first few gigs during his feb-mester last year.

Signature Style: Madden DJ's in a way that layers many different songs and sounds. This layering means that his principle challenge of reading the crowd is made easier when he can test a song on an audience and change it out quickly if they don't respond. While most of his work is on the fly, occasionally if Madden is given information about a party in advance, he might make a rough playlist and practice transitions between songs, describing his process as "a little bit of planning, a little bit of spontaneity".

Favorite trick: Madden adds tension and excitement to slow portions of songs using "reverb" which essentially makes a big echo sound until he drops the beat back in and keeps the song moving.

Madden's personal music tastes play into his DJing. "My style is very different from what a lot of people like. You know how people memorize lyrics and like to sing along? I memorize rhythms and notes. So a lot of times, the music I like is a little more abstract ... I start with the assumption that I need to play something a little more accessible." Madden's desire to please audiences doesn't curb his creativity, however. "I'm always experimenting, going somewhere new, changing".

Find Him at: His preferred venues are "small, grimy places, where everyone's wavy into it" so it comes as no surprise that Madden could be found DJing last year at 82 Adirondack House. He's also DJed at McCullough, the Grille, the Mill, and house parties/social houses.

The next frontier: From the start, Madden produced his own music for fun, but has only been seriously producing music for less than a year. He describes his creations as abstract, slow-developing, long songs with a lot of texture and layers. Check out Madden's music at www.soundcloud.com/geoprim

See Geoprim in action Saturday evening this upcoming weekend in Lower Forest for a dub-step event.

DJ Mr. Whiskers

aka Reilly Steel '12

Home Base: Oakland, Cal.

Preferred Program: Traktor Pro

Two genres, same goal: Steel's passion is electronic music — he even produces his own — but you can also find him deejaying a typical Middlebury party, playing Top 40 hip-hop and pop. While the genres may be different, the goal is the same: to keep the energy up, ensure a happy crowd, and keep people dancing. The process differs slightly between the two genres, for example, house music requires a consideration of the song's key, and using a program called mixed-in-key. Steel blends tracks together seamlessly to ensure cohesiveness for listeners and dancers alike. Within Traktor pro, Steel also considers the beats per minute of a song, altering songs slightly to provide smooth transitions for both house and popular music. In his library, Steel adds cue markers at various important points of the song, which makes songs easier to mix in on the fly.

Music sources: Steel culls music from a variety of sources for a rich mix of artists and genres. He utilizes blogs such as the popular Hype Machine (www.hypem.com) for the newest music, but also finds record labels useful to find music of a certain standard and style. For house music, Steel uses online store Beatport. In his music production, Steel is influenced by a wide variety of music beyond the crowd-pleasing tracks he spins.

Origins: Inspired by Middlebury's own DJ Emmanuelle, Steel expanded upon his interest in music via his foray into the deejay world. Experimenting solo led to the first test of his newfound skills, as he described: "I remember my first gig, actually. My first gig was January, and I had a trial version of this (Traktor) program that quit every thirty minutes, so I had to reload the software every thirty minutes."

Find him at: Bunker — he will be deejaying a rave in the upcoming weeks. The Mill, MCAB events — most recently opening and closing for Orange Crush in McCullough. House parties

Expanding horizons: Steel likes to experiment, reading up on the latest developments in the deejay world through the blog DJ Tech Tools run by Ean Golden. He tries out new techniques and songs with at parties, as he says: "With any crowd, if you gain their trust at first you can get a little crazier."

Get DJ Mr. Whiskers to come to your party: <http://twitter.com/djmrwhiskers> and <http://www.facebook.com/djmrwhiskers>.



all photos courtesy of the deejays



by Alex Blair
Artist | Brilliant Colors
Album | "Introducing"

"Introducing," the appropriately titled debut album from the San Francisco all-female trio Brilliant Colors, is unmistakably a product of the 21st century. Like so many other recent indie bands, the group borrows heavily from noisy, lo-fi, and instantly hummable underground acts of the '80s and '90s (Guided By Voices and Jesus and Mary Chain immediately come to mind), but lacks the vitality, rawness and quality songcraft that made those older artists remarkable.

As far as contemporary comparisons, Brilliant Colors most closely resembles the overrated Vivian Girls, another all-woman band obsessed with fuzzy distortion and infectious melodies. "Introducing" follows the same trite formula of so many of its peers, adding nothing to this already worn-out genre. The album is basically a collection of 10 forgettable and underdeveloped noise pop songs that drip with boredom. Clocking in at just over 20 minutes, "Introducing" can't end quickly enough.

The album's opener, "I Searched," with its droning reverb, jangly guitars, and indiscernible lyrics epitomizes nearly every track on "Introducing." The song's melody is its only saving grace, but it's smothered beneath incessantly ringing distortion, an uninspired chord progression and lead singer Jess Scott's frustrating mumbles. On "Motherland," Scott does her best Karen O impression, screeching and moaning until it sounds like she's about to lose her voice. But whereas the Yeah Yeah Yeahs' leading lady delivers her vocal performances with soul and ferocity, Scott's unintelligible howls come off as annoying and gimmicky.

As the album progresses, its tracks become indistinguishable. The same rudimentary guitar-playing and singing smear each song, making for an entirely forgettable listening experience. Almost nothing on "Introducing" warrants a repeated listen and, after its 10 songs breeze by, you're left wondering why the band took the time and effort to title them in the first place.

For all my complaints about "Introducing's" lack of originality, the album's best track, ironically, is also its most blatant rip off. "Absolutely Anything" unabashedly steals the melody from the 1984 Nena hit "99 Red Balloons." Brilliant Colors transform the '80s standard into a tough, buzzing punk-pop song that captures what a successful female shoegaze trio should sound like (Vivian Girls, take note). Best of all, Scott's vocals take center stage, revealing a surprisingly clear and melodious voice. Still, moments like this are rare on "Introducing" and fail to compensate for the rest of the album's mediocrity.

Slumberland Records, Brilliant Colors' label, is famous for its assortment of noise pop and shoegaze artists. In 2009, they released the amazing debut from the Pains of Being Pure At Heart, an album rich with distortion, original melodies, and clever wordplay. Unfortunately, releases like this are a dime a dozen in today's indie music world and "Introducing" certainly attests to that. It seems like every week a dozen new bands emerge on some obscure label with the same lo-fi, underproduced aesthetic. If you're hoping Brilliant Colors will be that diamond in the rough, you should probably dig deeper.

'Mister Show' shows off sketch comedy

By Jessie Kissingner
STAFF WRITER

Lights out and two screens on either side of the stage flipped on to show Neil (Baron '10) and Andrew (Powers '11.5) sitting on couches watching TV, discovering that their show, "Mister Show with Neil and Andrew," had begun and that the stage was empty. The camera followed them as they rushed out, attempted and failed to hitchhike, walked through Axinn where Andrew washed his hair in the waterfall in order to "freshen up," and ate a Love Me Tender from the Grille — all necessary stops on the way to their delightful, silly, and side-splitting sketch comedy show.

The two burst onto the stage in sync with their video images to start the live portion of the performance. Scenes alternated between video clips and live sketches, inspired by HBO's "Mr. Show," a sketch comedy series that ran in the mid-90s. Mixed media paid tribute to the basic TV material, but it also created a clever nuance of exploring the possibilities of medium.

Capitalizing on theater's potential for physical dimension, actors Wyatt Orme '12.5 and Alyssa Limperis '12 emerged from the audience to join Neil and Andrew on the stage. Laughs, too, underscored the entire spectacle, grounding even video portions with the reminder of theater's distinctive feature of a live audience.

Performers enacted several skits that ranged from scenes in office buildings to major corporations, airport customs to a mafia hang out. The choice of selection was very smart and often self-referential, considering their choice of medium.

One scene was about a pre-taped call-in show. Consequently, the audience called in about the topic they were watching rather than what the moderator, Baron, wanted to discuss. Throughout the piece, he shouted at an audience that could not hear him (until next week) about how they were calling in about the wrong topic and that they should have listened last week, which was now this week, to know which topic to discuss this week. The scene mocks the disjunction between live and pre-recorded material. Communication breaks down because of the disconnect between media.

The skit "The Audition" also poked fun at miscommunication; however, it shifted its focus to acting and the blurring of fiction with reality. Powers played an actor who auditioned with a monologue about a character who is, himself, also auditioning. He asked, "Can I use this chair?" and the people viewing his audition responded, "Yes." "No!" He exclaimed, explaining that he had already started his monologue. This occurred over and over again, until the other two characters were practically biting their tongues as Powell yelled at them and the monologue heightened to a cry against injustice. In its own right, the scene was quite funny, but stepping out and hearing the audience reaction, remembering that the entire entity was a fiction, made for an even greater level of absurdity.

Transitions from scene to scene were seamless. Witty plot ties and video interludes pulled together the skits with ease, leading the audience through a meandering tour of hilarity.

But perhaps the most impressive part of the whole experience was the quality of the films. They were shot incredibly well with an attention to detail that riffed on the camera style of the original "Mr. Show," and again, attention to the capabilities of film brought

on big laughs. Co-director Brad Becker-Parton '11.5, responsible for the film aspect of the show, shot scenes with intentionally familiar images of the Middlebury campus when representing far off places — a CEO golfed in front of Axinn, bikes on a bike rack covered in snow stood in for Amsterdam — heightening the comedy's sophistication by mocking the illusion of video reality.

Another great scene in that regard was one in which Ben Orbison '12.5 asked the person working at Midd Xpress, Orme, for change for a dollar. Unable to decide whether or not he has the authority to grant this transaction, he appealed to his manager, played by Orbison. Again, Orbison was uncertain, so he called his higher up, which was, in fact, another character played by Orme. The two alternated positions of authority until Orbison finally called the president who told him to deny the transaction. The scene took advantage of film's ability to distill moments in time, allowing the actors to play many parts within a matter of minutes and forming the crux of the gag.

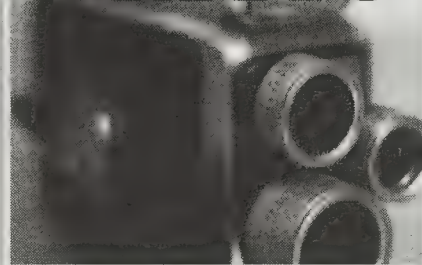
All in all, "Mister Show with Neil and Andrew" exhibited a remarkable amount of talent on many levels. It was funny and smart, swarming with subtleties, and offered a refreshingly new type of humor to the



Courtesy

'Mister Show' received enthusiastic audiences for each of its four shows this weekend.

THE REEL CRITIC



by Simran Bhalla

MOVIE | Alice in Wonderland
DIRECTOR | Tim Burton
STARRING | Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham-Carter

Lewis Carroll's surreal and absurd "Alice in Wonderland" returns to the cinema, helmed this time by the equally surreal and absurd Tim Burton. The alternately whimsical and creepy charms of the novel and animated Disney film aren't matched by Burton's self-referential interpretation of the story, however. Like his 2005 remake of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," Burton tries to draw out the darker elements of story, but only serves to make them seem ridiculous. The story takes place when Alice is 19, and believes that the Wonderland of the original Disney movie was a dream. She stumbles back down the rabbit hole after running away from a marriage proposal from a square and obnoxious suitor. In the opening scenes, we see her in Austenian, 19th-century England, attending a society party for her own engagement-to-be,

with a predictable crew of stuck-up, dull Brits who just don't get that Alice isn't like them: she's not weird, she's imaginative and fantastical! Her character might have been more likeable had Mia Wasikowska, who plays her, not looked as if she was consumptive throughout the film (as most of Burton's heroines do — but they usually have a good deal more darkness to them than Alice).

We see flashbacks where Alice asks her father if she is mad; he tells her she is, but "all the best people are." This seems to be the central theme of Burton's oeuvre, from Edward Scissorhands onwards: weird is more interesting. And he's usually right, except with Alice, who is much more boring than the film would like us to believe. The exaggerated characters that surround her throw into relief her lack of actual personality. It would be one thing if she were intended to be an innocent and perfectly normal girl thrown into a bizarre world, but, like the Avril Lavigne song that plays in the credits, Alice tries to be alternative but ends up bland and moderately annoying. Her mission is to kill Jabberwocky, the Red Queen's dragon, and restore Wonderland to the White Queen (Anne Hathaway), its rightful leader. There is a protracted fight scene at the end of the film that is visually evocative of a video game version of "The Chronicles of Narnia."

Johnny Depp plays the Mad Hatter, who looks like Willy Wonka after years of homelessness and hallucinogenic drug abuse. His mannerisms and speech affectations would be delightful and inspired if he hadn't used variations on them in "Chocolate Factory" and the "Pirates of the Caribbean" movies. Depp is an excellent actor and a seemingly perfect fit for the Mad Hatter, but we've seen him play effeminate and insane before. Helena Bonham-Carter, Burton's other half and other most fre-

quent collaborator, is the most entertaining character in the movie as the Red Queen, the controlling and deeply insecure despot of Underland — the mystical world that Alice mistakes for Wonderland as a child. She is given all the best lines in the movie, and her repartee with the Hatter is perfect: "What a regrettably large head you have!" she tells him while in her custody and under threat of having his head chopped off. But, like Depp, Bonham-Carter isn't exactly a stranger to playing this character type (file under "Shrieking Harpy").

Underland itself is alternatively beautiful and garishly creepy, as it should be. Its lurid colours stand out in contrast to Alice's pastel England. Tim Burton's strength has always been his visual creativity, and though he brings his own touch to Carroll's world here, he doesn't allow it to be quite as macabre as Sweeney Todd's London or his most inspired creation, The Nightmare Before Christmas's Halloweentown — probably because Disney financed the production of this supposedly family-targeted fare (this also explains the above-mentioned Avril Lavigne inflection). The addition of an action-adventure element into the plot also somewhat compromises the story: it's about discovery, not conflict, and Alice isn't a warrior princess — although her haute couture Joan of Arc armor is fantastic.

The recent retrospective on Tim Burton at the Museum of Modern Art was a testament to his striking originality and specific vision, but what he's creating now seems to be a diluted memory of his best works. His most memorable and impressive stories and worlds are the ones he writes himself. Perhaps it's time to move on from the adaptations of adaptations.

Operatic alum returns to Middlebury

By Amanda Perterra
STAFF WRITER

In his first performance at Middlebury since graduation, opera tenor William Burden '86 will be giving a recital to benefit the Opera Company of Middlebury March 13 at the Town Hall Theater. Emory Fanning, a former music teacher at the College under whom Burden studied, will accompany him.

Burden has sung with such diverse companies as the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Seattle Opera and various venues throughout Europe. However, in true liberal arts fashion, his path to opera stardom was by no means a straight one.

He was almost—but not quite—a Spanish-Music double major while at Middlebury, settling instead for the language alone. He sang in the chapel choir and the Dissipated Eight, and studied voice under Lise Missier and Nan Nall, but for the most part left ideas of singing professionally well enough alone.

"They [the music faculty] brought in a guy from the Westminster Choir, from Princeton, Glenn Parker," Burden said. "He did a

sort of opera workshop for anyone who was interested at the time, and he was the one who really pulled me aside and got me seriously thinking. I didn't always consider it as a career, but I figured if I didn't give it a shot I'd regret not knowing if I could have done it."

According to Burden, the defining moment was signing up for graduate school, an implicit indication that he was in it for the long haul, not to mention a radical switch from the liberal arts tradition to a professional program. Teachers, apprenticeships, smaller roles, bigger roles and 20 years later, he's still at it.

Within the music world, where many choose to enter pre-professional programs early on, Burden may be considered a late bloomer. He believes the delay gives him additional insight into his craft.

"My time at Middlebury was ideal in not choosing to focus on one thing exclusively at 18," he said. "I definitely think it's incumbent on the next generation of artists to have as varied a background as they can. Whenever I have the opportunity to work with young

singers I encourage them to read, study languages, and get involved in the literature of the country from which the piece they're doing originated. It's not even just background for a role, but to get a sense of what was happening. Knowing what was historically happening in the eighteenth century gives you a much better sense of Mozart's operas. Studying singing is terribly important, but it's not the only important thing."

Currently a freelance musician, Burden signs on for individual roles with various companies. His most recent project is the world premier of *Amelia*, a work commissioned by the Seattle Opera and composed by Daron Hagen. He plays a ghost, the deceased father of the title character, shot down in the Vietnam War.

His program Friday will highlight a little bit of everything, ranging from traditional arias to some songs by Henre Duparc and a selection from a song cycle written by his friend Gene Sheer. The cycle was inspired by the 50th anniversary of D-Day and features five different stories of World War II.

Not a one impressed by film, 'Nobody'

By Toren Hardee
STAFF WRITER

It often seems that artists' favorite thing to tell stories about is... artists. The number of narratives centered on creative types is certainly out of proportion with the percent of "artists" in the actual population. But we all must speak, to some degree, from experience, and these stories are not inherently self-serving, conceited and vapid—countless works have documented the creative struggle with great pathos and wisdom.

"Nobody" serves as a sort of catalog of the worst things a narrative work about artists can be. The film—directed, written, and produced by Rob Perez '95, with an additional production credit to Damien Saccani '96—screened in Dana Auditorium on Sunday night to an audience of about 20 (surely the double-booking with the Oscars are to blame for low attendance). It has pretentious inter-title quotations from great artists (their connection to the film tenuous at best) and it has an array of stock art-school caricatures for characters. But most of all, it has Lindeman: its whiny, soulless, deeply unlikable main character—is there a "Worst Protagonists Ever" contest we can enter this guy in?—whose artistic ennui is so disconnected from reality that it comes off almost as a parody of past portrayals of artistic struggle. It is the concept of writer's block taken to its lazy, unfeasible, incredibly frustrating extreme.

In Scene One, we get Lindeman whining to his psychiatrist that they cannot possibly have "worked through all his issues," because he needs suffering to create his sculpture. Next is a cheap joke about Jews (if Lindeman was a Jew, maybe they would have something to work with), which, alas, is regurgitated later in the film in an attempt to create one of those things they call "motifs." And here, after about 30 seconds, we've reached the end of the road in terms of Lindeman's character development. For the rest of the film, we have to listen to this astoundingly one-dimensional protagonist moan and groan because he no longer has a "thing" to drive his art—he's suffering because he's not suffering. Now, a paradox like this could work with panache in, say, a Charlie Kaufman script, but there is literally not one single humanizing element about Lindeman

to make us care about anything he says in his sarcastic, monotonic drawl. We get to hear him plead for someone to tell him what the point of art is (to which there are many not-so-elusive answers) and complain to his cryptic German advisor that there's no point being "just good" if you can't be "great." Whether this unreliability is the fault of the script or of newcomer Sam Rosen's performance, I don't know—but Sam Rosen's career has already ended, in my eyes, because I'll never be able to watch this actor in another role without thinking of empty, despicable Lindeman.

The actual plot consists of Lindeman being inserted into a hopelessly clichéd series of what we in the "indie filmmaking" business call "quirky situations" in an attempt to find his new "thing." At a meeting with some Goths at a graveyard, Lindeman is pressured to sacrifice a goat (quirky!), but instead he runs away with the goat. The goat is handicapped, and can apparently stand up, but can't walk (what?), because I suppose it would look "funny" to have our hero inexplicably carry a goat around in his arms for the rest of the film. Oh, and he's homophobic, too, or at least until he gets to participate in some desperately stereotypical karaoke at a gay bar. But as quickly as he dropped his prejudices, he loses heart, announcing, "Being gay is awesome. I don't do awesome." And in the most pointless "quirky situation" of all, he visits the home of some sort of Chinese sexual mystic, yells "No!" when she holds up a ferret, and leaves, showing Perez's reluctance to push for any sort of depth or character development, any value whatsoever, in this series of empty scenes.

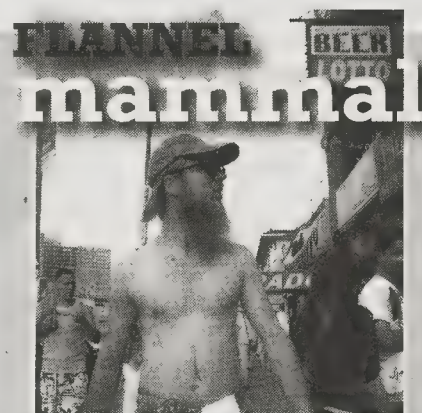
Eventually, the whole art school gang goes gallivanting into the woods for a weekend, and the Pot Brownie Scene and the Love Scene ensue—I won't get into it. Back at school, something finally clicks for Lindeman, and he decides his "thing" is going to be "being nobody," whatever this means, and he carves, over the course of a hilariously repetitive montage, his big granite block into a big granite zero, or something. The gang graduates, sits picturesquely in a line on a grassy hill, and Lindeman delivers his most obvious voiceover in a movie filled to the brim with obvious voiceovers. "I'm Lindeman," he says, "I'm just doing what I can with what I got." Asked what he's going to do next, he replies, "I don't know, but I think it's

gonna be good."

Perhaps this film could squeak by if it was actually a comedy, as it purports to be ("nobodythecomedy.com"). Even the cheapest of laughs would suffice. But all the characters are such cardboard cutouts, and the performances so tepid, that the jokes earn a roll-eyed forehead slap at best (see: Jewish joke), often simply fall flat on their faces, and provoke fury at worst. I laughed once during the film's 90 minutes: Lindeman's friend Fiona asks what he will do in the "real world" if he abandons art, to which he answers "I'll get a real job, like a beekeeper or a blacksmith or something," and hearing myself laugh, I marveled at this foreign sound that had involuntary emanated from my body, so out of place it was with the suppressed rage I felt during most of the film.

Maybe "Nobody" is in on its own joke, I pondered, when one of the über-critical art school students prophetically utters that a piece is "so derivative it's not even derivative." If such a feat is possible, "Nobody" accomplishes it, for it is unique in the totality of its unoriginality. I tried to imagine an ending that would redeem this movie, some unexpected postmodern twist in which the curtain was pulled back and it was revealed to us to be a farce after all; some sort of gory accident in which all of these horrible characters drive off a cliff and drown in the sea would probably be sufficiently gratifying.

Production-wise, the film could pass as a cute sort of indie-film-pastiche were the script not so irredeemably trite. It has the requisite parts: all-lowercase Helvetica titles announcing the names of new characters, moody shots "invested with meaning," even a record scratch noise signifying surprise. But alas, the art school kids this movie tries to market itself to, if they are as cynical as it portrays them to be, will see right through to its empty core. Perhaps a more suitable target demographic would be 12-to-17-year-olds with art school aspirations, like the film's only semi-relatable character: the innocent, alleged-genius P.K., whose work is, surprise surprise, never shown to us—genius and "Nobody" are mutually exclusive. Astoundingly, Perez stated after the film that writers for college newspapers have been responding positively to this film, but I know one "arty kid" that hasn't been duped, and personally, I'm going to take a break from movies about suffering artists for a while.



by Philippe Bronchtein

The other day, as I was eating a heart attack in the Grille, working on a paper, I remembered a gold chain that I used to own. It's been years since I lost that chain, but it made me think, "When did it stop being cool to wear gold?" As is the case with almost every question I have, I turned to God (the Internet). Unfortunately, God's answer was unsatisfactory. The Web site www.ehow.com gave five simple instructions on how to be cool when you wear gold.

Step 1: Choose your golds wisely. Brassy, yellow gold can be harsh on some complexions. The best shades have hints of coolness to them. Think white, rose and matte gold.

Step 2: Whether it's a sequin party dress, a soft satin shirt or a short, velvet mini, gold is definitely a statement. That means leave the head-to-toe gold at the disco and pair with simple neutrals.

Step 3: Seasonal combinations of color that'll work well with gold include chocolate brown, navy and dark burgundy in fall. Try soft peaches, creams and mint greens in the spring.

Step 4: Accessories are another great way to get gold into your get-up. Small clutches, earrings or groupings of bangles act as an accent to other patterns, colors and prints.

Step 5: Finally, if you've always been more inclined to wear silver or platinum, try introducing gold in small steps. Buy inexpensive earrings or a big chunky ring. And if you're not into jewelry, opt instead for a feminine, beaded clutch. The color, mixed with embellishments and textures, will add a touch of glamour to your most basic standbys.

These rules are wrong. Here are the five steps to wearing gold, Flannel Mammal Style:

Step 1: When choosing what kind of gold to wear, your jewelry should draw more attention to itself than to how it works with your skin. I have no interest in showing off my pimply face. Use gold to distract everyone from your haggard complexion.

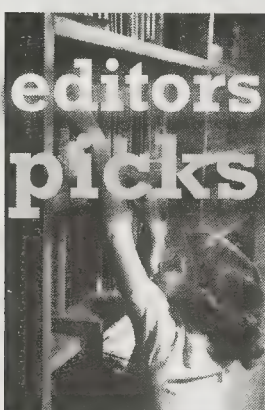
Step 2: Head-to-toe gold is really the only way to wear gold. Disco is the best kind of music and neutral colors are boring. The more over the top, the more effective the outfit.

Step 3: The only color that works with gold is gold. Chocolate brown makes me think of poop, navy is SooOooOOoooOo '97, and dark burgundy is only acceptable because of Ron Burgundy. Soft peaches is not a color, cream is too Joan Rivers, and mint green doesn't look good on anyone. If you can't bring yourself to rock the gold on gold, just go with a flannel.

Step 4: This may actually be the only relevant rule that the kind people at www.ehow.com included. Gold accessories are the best kind of accessories. Gold fronts are one of the best accessories. Nothing like literally putting your money where your mouth is. I also love the big golden hoop earrings with the owner's full name inside them. I want to get my ears pierced just so I can rock some golden Philippe Bronchtein hoop earrings.

Step 5: If you're thinking about wearing gold, get aggressive. There's nothing worse than someone making a flailing, half-hearted attempt at making a statement. Wear gold and wear a lot of it.

Wear gold and go disco.



11 Strange Democracy
McCullough
Social Space
7:30 p.m.

MacArthur Fellow, writer and artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña will perform his work, what has been described as a hybrid of Chicano humor, literature, multilingualism and activist theory. See one of the "greatest performing artists in America today."

12 Hugo Wolff
Quartett
MCFA Concert
Hall
8 p.m.

After a rapid ascent from relative obscurity, the Hugo Wolff Quartett is now one of the most respected string quartets of the generation. The show will feature selections with Viennese connections from Mozart, Werbern and Schubert.

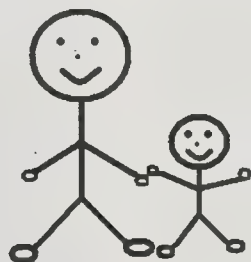
13 Let the Right
One In
Dana
Auditorium
3 and 8 p.m.

As part of the Hirschfield International Film Series, the award-winning Swedish film will screen twice. Directed by Tomas Alfredson, the film depicts Oskar, a timid 12-year-old who soon realizes his next-door-neighbor is a vampire.



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ANNOUNCES

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Northeastern University

Men's hockey takes the NESCAC by storm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

from Charlie Strauss '12. Dubuc again found net off of a Nick Resor '12 feed during a five-on-three power play later in the period.

"Bowdoin is one of the most physical teams we play, and we took advantage of the power plays to score two goals," said Chris Steele '13.

Bowdoin gained some momentum in the second period as Polar Bear Ryan Blossom scored on a breakaway. During the second period, the teams traded five-on-three power play opportunities, but neither could find the back of the net.

The first part of the third period saw frantic play with lots of hustle, but neither team capitalized on any scoring opportunity until Bowdoin tied the game with 9:23 to play.

The excitement mounted as the seconds ticked away and the game looked like it would surely go into an overtime period. As the clock passed two minutes, the puck was on the Panthers' defensive end and they were fiercely fighting off Bowdoin's offense.

"The leadership on the team really helped us get through the game, keeping us aggressive even after Bowdoin tied it," said Eric Zagorski

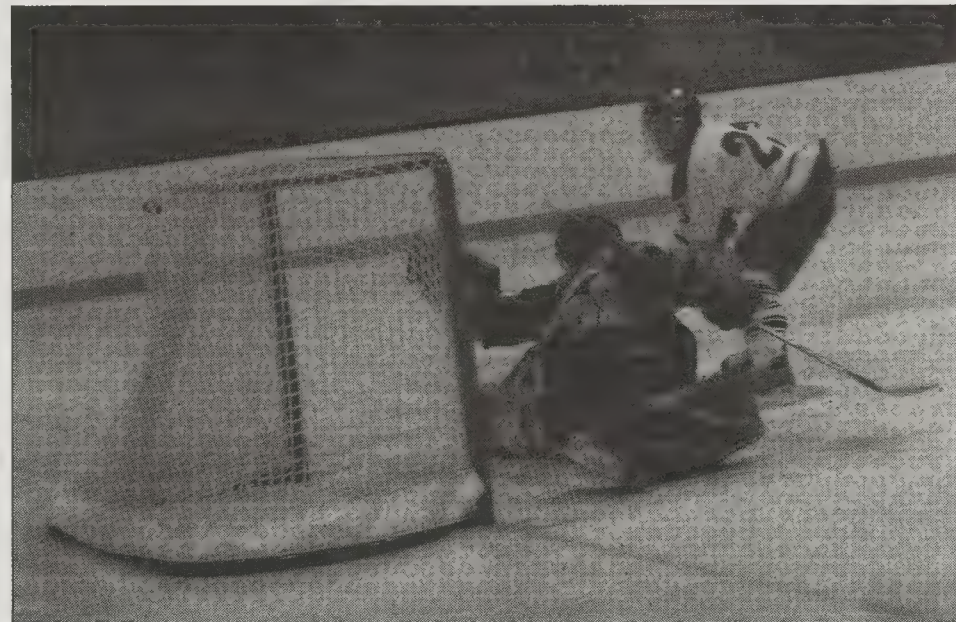
'13.

When play was tipped into the neutral zone, Townsend seized the opportunity to run away with the puck. After getting a feed from AJ Meyer '10, Townsend emerged with it, skated into the Bowdoin zone and shot from the right circle. His shot hit the top left corner of the goal, putting Middlebury up 3-2 with 1:42 on the clock. Watson Arena went silent.

The Polar Bears pulled their goalie at 1:34, but couldn't score the tying goal, giving the Panthers their first NESCAC championship since 2007. For his effort in the game, Townsend was named NESCAC Player of the Week, culminating a fantastic four years of Middlebury hockey.

"Every single person came out and played three periods of good hockey, right down to the last minute when [Townsend] blocked a shot and cleared out of our zone to seal the win," said Brown. "We'll have to come ready to do the same on Saturday."

By winning the tournament, the men earn an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. The first round, hosted by Middlebury in Kenyon Arena this Saturday, pits the Panthers against Plattsburgh, which will not be an easy matchup. Plattsburgh and Middlebury have



Courtesy/ Jeff Patterson

Martin Drolet '12 punches a short-handed goal past the the Bantams' goalie for a 2-1 lead.

split games this year.

Coming off of a loss in the SUNYAC conference championship, the Plattsburgh team will be hungry to prove itself to the Panthers, who emerged victorious in their last meeting in January. As of March 8, the Panthers are ranked

fourth on the USCHO poll, with Plattsburgh sitting just behind them in fifth. With their first NCAA tournament appearance in the past three years, the Panthers are looking to reassert their dominance not only in the NESCAC, but also in all of Division III hockey.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

record 13 blocks from Andrew Locke '11, the Panthers disposed of the Fighting Scots 64-57. With the performance, Locke bested the former school record held by none other than Andrew Locke '11, and helped force Gordon to shoot with Stevie Wonder-type precision

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Friday, March 5

Middlebury	64
Gordon	57

Saturday, March 6

Middlebury	75
Rhode Island College	59

in the second half; the team connected on only 21.4 percent of its attempts from the field.

The next test for the Panthers was the Rhode Island College Anchormen, who were coming off a first-round win against Rutgers-Newark. Middlebury began the game uncharacteristically cold, missing on all nine of its attempts in the first six minutes of play. Down 11-1 before they made their first field goal, the Panthers immediately found themselves in an uphill battle. The Rhode Island

lead grew to as large as 18 in the second half, but was cut to just six with seven minutes to play. The Anchormen remained tough down the stretch, however, and came away with a 75-59 win.

Ryan Sharry '12 led Middlebury with 25 points and 14 boards. With the victory, Rhode Island earned a trip to Williams College next weekend, and although the loss was difficult for the Panthers, any amount of time that you do not have to spend in Williamstown, Mass., is bound to make one's life that much less depressing.

Following the season, both Tim Edwards and Ryan Sharry were designated as Second Team All-NESCAC performers, and for the second year in a row, Edwards was the league's Defensive Player of the Year. He will graduate as Middlebury College's all-time leader in steals. The 25 wins recorded by the Panthers this season was the most in school history, and the graduating seniors — Edwards, Kevin Kelleher '10 and Bill Greven '10 will finish their careers with 79 wins, a NESCAC Championship, and two NCAA tournament appearances, figures that are unmatched by any other group in school history. The loss of these seniors will certainly be felt by next year's team, but the Panthers will also be re-

turning six of their seven players who recorded starts this season. Good reason to believe, according to junior Ashton Coughlin '11, "We won't end next year on a loss."



Andrew Podrygula
Andrew Locke '11 blocks a Rhode Island College shot at the net in the Panthers' loss.

everyone who witnessed them play.

"This year was one of the most fun seasons in terms of team chemistry," said Billings, reflecting on the past months. "The [first-years] were a huge part of that this year and they made an unbelievable impact. On top of that, I am leaving this team having made some of the best friends ever, which just goes to show you what Middlebury teams are all about. That can't be measured from a winning or losing season."

The team ends its season with a record of 16-7-3, marking the first time in nine years that the Panthers will not participate in the NCAA playoffs. This statistic does not reflect a diminished level of talent and commitment on the part of the Middlebury women, however. Rather, it represents the dramatic increase in the number of phenomenal players recruited to D-III teams, particularly in the NESCAC conference. Almost every program in the NESCAC has grown into a formidable opponent, and Middlebury no longer stands alone at the top. Nevertheless, such competition can only make the Panthers better.

Middlebury will lose four seniors this year, as Ashley Bairos '10, Wright, Billings and McCormack will be graduating in May.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Results	Comments
3/05 3/06	Men's basketball	Gordon R.I.C.	64-57 W 75-59 L	Men's basketball falls in the regional final for the second year in a row, despite a great performance by Ryan Sharry '12.
3/06 3/07	Men's hockey	Trinity Bowdoin	4-2 W 3-2 W	I'm pretty sure the Bowdoin announcers on the live telecast were crying after Townsend's goal.
3/06	Women's hockey	Trinity	2-1 L	Women drop a tight game, to say the least, in the fourth OT. The team fended off a flurry of Bantam assaults but couldn't capitalize.
3/05- 3/07	Women's squash	Individual Nationals	—	Avery Tilney '10 and Kathryn Bostwick '12 were invited to Trinity, where Tilney won her first-round match and advanced.
3/05- 3/07	Men's squash	Individual Nationals	—	Valentin Quan '12 and Jay Dolan '13 competed at Trinity for the Individual Nationals.

BY THE NUMBERS

102	Seconds left in regulation when tri-captain Charlie Townsend '10 scored the game-winning goal against Bowdoin.
10	Number of consecutive wins for the men's hockey team.
25	Number of points forward Ryan Sharry '12 scored against Rhode Island College on Saturday.
2	Number of wins for Trinity over the women's hockey team this season after going 0-18-2 against the Panthers prior to this year.
123	Number of minutes the women's hockey NESCAC semifinal lasted, making it the longest Division III women's hockey game ever played.

Editors' Picks	Alyssa O'Gallagher	Emma Gardner	Katie Siegner	Kevin Carpenter
Questions				
Will the Middlebury men's lacrosse team and the Bates team combine for over 25 goals on Saturday?	NO It'll take a few games before they work out all the kinks.	NO That's a ton of goals.	YES Although the Panthers' backs may be sore, because they'll be carrying Bates in this scoring tally.	YES High-scoring games with Bates in past years lead me to this. I research these things.
Will the men's tennis team sweep NYU on Saturday?	YES They seem pretty confident this season, and are there even tennis courts in the Village?	YES NYU: a bunch of emo, skinny wimps.	YES Judging from the men's tennis preview, the team appears to be pretty fired up about the season.	YES Our tennis team is pretty good, right?
Which Panther will tally the most goals in the women's lacrosse game against Bates?	CHASE DELANO '11 This is no new deal; Chase has been this team's fearless leader for years.	CHASE DELANO '11 No words. Chase, do me proud.	CHASE DELANO '11 I'm pretty sure she scored as many goals as the entire Bates team last time they played.	CHASE DELANO '11 The other girls might have to chase Chase for the leading-scorer title. Boom!
Who will win the Big 12 Tournament this year?	KANSAS I don't really like college basketball (gasp!), but I do know that Kansas is the team to beat.	KANSAS I'm following the lead of my fellow sports editors because I know nothing.	KANSAS I see the name in the March Madness brackets a lot, which is the only time I pay attention to college basketball.	KANSAS Betting against a sure thing is stupid.
Who will triumph in the Celtics v. Cavaliers matchup in Cleveland on Sunday?	CAVS I'll take any chance I can get to bet against the Evil Empire, and the Cavs are pretty legit.	CAVS Boston = hate. Katie, you have much to learn.	CELTICS Boston = love.	THE LEBRONS 'And King James looked across his land and thought it was good.' —Genesis 1:23.
Career Record	40-37 (.519)	66-85 (.437)	30-48 (.385)	41-44 (.482)

THE CAMPUS' SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

WOMEN'S TENNIS

The Middlebury women's tennis team kicks off its official season this Saturday with a doubleheader, facing Brandeis at 8 a.m., followed by Wellesley at 2 p.m. After a winter of training spent confined to the Bubble, the recent advent of spring weather has the team excited to return to the Proctor courts once again.

The team heads into the spring, packed with 17 regular season matches, with a roster that includes only three upperclassmen: Whitney Hanson '11, and co-captains Annie Weinberg '10 and Jamie Harr '10. Under their leadership, the squad, which boasts two of the strongest recruiting classes in recent years, has been honed into a highly competitive NESCAC team.

Tori Aiello '12, standout rookie of the 2008-2009 season, returns to reassert her dominance in an increasingly competitive Panther squad that features five talented first-year players. Brittany Faber '13, a Minnesota native, has proven herself a force to be reckoned with after an impressive showing in the fall.

At the end of the spring season last year, the Panthers were ranked third in the Northeast among D-III schools as reported by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, surpassed only by NESCAC rivals Williams and Amherst. After a spring break training trip, the squad kicks off NESCAC play on April 10 with a conference doubleheader against Wesleyan and Trinity. Schedule difficulty increases throughout the season, reaching its zenith just before the NESCAC tournament begins, facing Amherst, Williams, and Tufts (ranked one-two-three at the end of the fall season) in the final two weeks leading up to postseason play.

With the addition of several talented first-years, the Panthers are hoping to build on the successes of the past and assert themselves as a dominant figure in the NESCAC. With such a packed schedule, they will definitely have ample opportunity to prove their worth.

—Alyssa O'Gallagher, Sports Editor

TRACK & FIELD

With a strong pool of returning athletes and a talented first-year class, the men's and women's outdoor track and field teams are preparing for a successful season this spring.

The women's team hopes to top its 2009 season, which culminated in an impressive second-place finish in the NESCAC Championship with four athletes qualifying for the NCAA Championship, and three school records and one NESCAC record smashed. All four of last year's NCAA athletes—Kaitlynn Saldanha '11 (800m), Alice Wisener '11 (400m hurdles), Margo Cramer '12 (1500m), and Rebecca Fanning '12 (800m)—are returning to build on last year's success.

Other returning veterans include All-American Alexandra Kreig '10 and All-NESCAC athlete Grace Close '11 (4x400m relay), Laura Dalton '10 (4x400m relay), Nicole Dvorak '11 (pole vault), Katy Magill '11 (4x400m relay) and Mia Martinez '12 (110m hurdles). Leading the Middlebury women this year will be tri-captains Dalton, Anjuli Demers '10 and Annie Sullivan '10.

On the men's side, the Panthers are

looking to improve on their sixth-place finish in last year's NESCAC championship. Returning 2009 All-NESCAC performers include Addison Godine '11 (4x400m relay), Ethan Mann '12 (4x400m relay), Michael Schmidt '12 (1000m), Connor Wood '11 (4x400m relay), and Micah Wood '10 (400m dash, 4x400m relay). The Middlebury men will be led by tri-captains Victor Guevara '10, Michael Waters '10, and Micah Wood '10.

"Outlook is good," says Schmidt, who is confident in the abilities of both teams. "Both the men and women had one of the most successful indoor seasons ever. We also have some runners doing outdoor who didn't do indoor or were injured, so with them back in the mix we should be even stronger. We're set to improve in every event and hopefully compete very well at NESCACs."

The Panthers will travel to San Diego, Calif., over spring break to compete in two invitational meets before returning to the east coast to start their official season on April 3.

—Dana Callahan, Staff Writer

BASEBALL

The Middlebury College baseball team will take to the diamond for the first time this season on Saturday, looking to reverse a trend of consecutive losing seasons since winning the NESCAC title in 2006.

"Last year's team was really kind of underachieving," said pitcher Dirk Van Duym '12. "If we all play up to our capabilities this year, we should be in a position to be very competitive and successful."

Last year's team finished 14-16 overall and 3-9 in NESCAC play, hitting a scintillating .326 but also giving up a team ERA of 6.75.

"Pitching has been a major focus for us in the preseason," said Van Duym. "We weren't very good in that area last year and really feel as though we can make big improvements there."

The pitching rotation this year will be anchored by players from all classes, with Matt Lowes '10, Nick Angstman '11, Will Baine '12 and John Wiet '13 looking to make contributions as starters. Baine will also see time at shortstop in the place of injured tri-captain Danny Seymour

'10, who could miss up to half of the season with a facial injury. The other captains of this year's team are outfielder Erich Enns '10 and third baseman Donny McKillop '11, who hit .439 and .435 last year, respectively. The team is also looking for contributions from the 12 new first-years added to the roster this year. Tom Driscoll '13 and Joe Conway '13.5 could start right away, and with Seymour out the starting nine could feature only one senior player in the field — Enns.

"It's a young team," said Van Duym, "but we have enough talent to be competitive right away." The Panthers open play against Trinity before making the annual trip to Arizona over spring break, where they will play nine games in seven days, including a key three-game series with Williams. The most important thing is to improve our record in NESCAC play," concluded Van Duym, "and hopefully be in a position to make the playoffs at the end of the season."

—Dillon Hupp, Staff Writer

SOFTBALL

The Middlebury varsity softball team has "high hopes for this season," looking to improve on its record of 17-15 from one year ago, according to co-captain Kristin Maletsky '10. Thanks to a tough preseason training regimen, the Panthers have positioned themselves for vast improvement in the upcoming 2010 campaign. With the loss of only two seniors to graduation, including standout third baseman Amelia Magistrali '09, Middlebury seems poised to perform at a high level.

"Of all my years as part of Middlebury softball, I strongly believe this is the year where we're most ready and able to accomplish our goals," said co-captain Sophie Dorot '10, who plays catcher for the Panthers. The team worked on improving its offense this preseason, an area of concern last year. "We are hoping," said Maletsky, "that with stronger hitting and a solid defense, we will be more successful than we were last year and win many more games."

For Megan Margel '11, who plays first base and earned second-team all-

NESCAC honors for 2009, offense has rarely been an issue in the past. Unlike last year, however, this Panthers squad features five first-years and one rookie sophomore "who are all excellent players and will certainly add a lot to the team," added Maletsky. Unfortunately for both Maletsky and the Panthers, however, the senior outfielder will be out for the season due to shoulder surgery.

Middlebury will begin the season over spring break in Florida against Bates College on March 20. Over the break, Middlebury has 12 games in six days before returning to Vermont, where the first home game of the season will take place on April 9 against Hamilton College.

"The trip will be a great opportunity to see where [the Panthers] stack up against the league overall," said Head Coach Kelly Bevere '99, who has been with the team for four years. If all goes as advertised, the 2010 Middlebury softball team should prove a threat to its opponents behind greatly improved hitting and solid leadership.

—Addison DiSesa

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The Middlebury women's lacrosse team will look to finish what it started last season. The Panthers fell just short with a loss to Hamilton in the NCAA regional final. The Panthers ended the season with an overall record of 11-6.

It looks to be a promising year for the team; despite graduating six talented players, Middlebury's offense will remain largely in tact. Last year's leading goal-scorer Chase Delano '11 will combine with offensive threats Dana Heritage '10 and Sally Ryan '11 to lead Middlebury's attack. Heritage '10 is one of three captains this year, along with Catherine Gotwald '10 and Carrie Sparkes '10, who will anchor Middlebury's defense.

The team is young this year so the first-years and sophomores will need to step into bigger roles. Liz Garry '12 had a strong rookie season last year on attack and she will be joined by first-year Ellen Halle '13 and Margaret Souther '13 on offense. First-years

Dani DeMarco '13 and Michaela Colbert '13 are also looking strong in the midfield.

"We're a fairly young team this year, but our rookie class is strong and they will be able to step into important roles on the field from the get-go," said Delano.

Sophomore Lily Nguyen '12 will step into net for the Panthers, as goalie Blair Bowie '09 graduated last year. Bowie was a second-team All-NESCAC and first-team All-Region selection in her senior season.

"Although we graduated one of the best goalies in the NESCAC last year, Lily has really stepped up her game and we feel very confident with her in the net," added Delano.

Middlebury will play its first game of the season against Bates at home on Saturday, March 13, at 12 p.m.

—Julia Ireland, Staff Writer

MEN'S RUGBY

On a cold, windy Saturday afternoon on the sidelines of Youngman field, the men of the Middlebury rugby team are tackling, passing, and scrumming their hearts out in preparation for their spring season.

Led by two of the youngest captains the Middlebury College Rugby Club (MCRC) has ever seen, Rowan Hall Kelner '12 and Brian Sirkia '12.5, the Panthers are excited to begin their march toward the Division II National Championship, an honor they have claimed in two out of the past four seasons. The team is especially anxious to return to action after its loss to fellow UVM at the end of the fall season.

"Were ready to make up for that heartbreaker" said Geoff Kalan '12.5, the most improved player from the fall season.

"We lost a few guys from last year's squad but gained some new, motivated players as well."

"I'm excited to join a winning tradition. It's a hard sport to learn, but I'm going to help out where I can" said Kyle Courtney '12, one of the fresh faces joining the Panthers for the spring season. "I hope the team can repeat its success from last year," Courtney added, speaking of the 27-11 victory over Wisconsin that gave the MCRC its second national championship.

The Panthers look poised and ready for the battles to come.

Middlebury kicks off its spring season with a friendly game against Boston University on March 20.

—Andrew Silver, Staff Writer

MEN'S LACROSSE

The Panthers, coming off of a trip to the NCAA Final Four last spring, have high expectations for the 2010 season. Last year the men's lacrosse team fell to rival Wesleyan in the NESCAC semis before surging into a strong NCAA tournament run that nevertheless "left a bitter taste in [their] mouths," according to co-captain Jeff Bregin '10. Despite losing a strong class of graduating seniors, including starting goalie Pete Britt '09 and three-time All-American Mike Stone '09, the team expects to take a strong step forward this season.

"The team is very balanced and deep at all positions and playing confidently," said co-captain Pete Smith '10. The returning players provide a large measure of leadership and talent to the squad, and both captains expressed excitement about the strong class of first-years entering the mix. Smith especially noted the potential of first-year Johnny Duvnjak '13 to contribute defensively and that of Brian Foster '13 to control the midfield. Bregin, meanwhile, prophesied standout seasons for attackman Jack Balaban '12 and pre-season All-American Matt Rayner '12.

Currently ranked eighth nationally in D-III, the team is approaching the

upcoming season with ambition and anticipation. "The team is psyched," said Smith, and determined to exceed the accomplishments of last year's squad. The Panthers already compete at the highest levels of Division III and among one of the most competitive conferences in the nation; the emerging men's lacrosse dynasty, however, wants more, and is in hot pursuit of another NCAA championship. The team has not captured an NCAA title since 2002, and in the opinion of the captains, it's about time that changed.

"We believe we are just as strong, if not stronger, than years past," said Bregin. As it is still early on in the season, the team has a lot of work to do, but seems to possess the determination and strong work ethic to accomplish its goals.

"Our team's approach is a 'make every day count' mentality," said Smith. "We don't look too far ahead, but I think we will find success in taking each day and game one at a time." The Panthers will be taking their first step on the path to NCAA glory in this Saturday's season-opener at Bates.

—Katie Siegner, Sports Editor

GOLF

Middlebury enters the second half of its season with high expectations. The winner in two of the last three NESCAC tournaments, Middlebury once again qualified for the championship, which will be held at Williams College this spring. The Panthers are led into spring competition by the stellar play of first-year Andrew Emerson '13. Emerson, a first-team All-NESCAC choice this fall, finished tied for third in the qualifier at Williams.

Emerson also received Rookie of the Year honors for his play in the tournament. Jimmy Levins '11, who helped lead the squad to the NESCAC crown last spring, returns as well to defend the team's championship. Levins posted a 149 at qualifiers, finishing one stroke behind Emerson.

In order to repeat its success from last year, however, Middlebury will need to continue to see big per-

formances out of the rest of the team as well.

"It's definitely a team effort," said Brian Cady '11, who helped Middlebury to victory with a crucial performance in last year's tournament. "You need to have depth to win at this level."

"Every year the players are getting better," added Levins, one of eight returning varsity players, "so the expectation is that you have to be improving yourself every day in practice."

The team will kick off its season with a trip to North Carolina over spring break in order to prepare for the upcoming season. They plan to play one of the best courses in the country at Pinehurst. Tackling courses of that difficulty will surely help the Panthers hone their skills for the pressures of NESCAC competition.

—Robbie Redmond, Staff Writer

MEN'S TENNIS

Back on the courts this weekend, the Middlebury men's tennis team commences its spring season sizzling with confidence. By all accounts, the Panthers are ready to take New England and the nation by storm.

"This is the strongest team we have had in my four years," noted returning tri-captain Andrew Thomson '10. "Coach [Dave] Schwarz has not been shy at defining our ultimate goal this season: to win an NCAA national championship."

The Panthers return all of their players from last year, including Thomson, fellow tri-captains Andrew Lee '10 and Conrad Olson '10, and seniors Peter Odell '10, Eliot Jia '10, and Chris Mason '10. Last fall, Thomson and Lee paired up to capture the ITA Small College New England regional and national doubles championships. Andrew Peters '11 is also back as last fall's national runner-up in singles play.

Middlebury also boasts an extensive and balanced roster, from its many

returning stars to five promising first-years who have been working hard to earn some reps on the court. Alec Parower '13 is one good example; "he has been training especially hard and is capable of making a big contribution for us this year," remarked Odell. It is still unclear who will emerge as the team's number one player, as they all have been playing at such a high level which, notes Lee, "is one heckuva problem to have!"

The Panthers have been in the gym every day and are eager to showcase their strength.

"For me, March 13 is like Christmas come early," says an excited Thomson. "It has been apparent by our fall results and off-season work ethic that we have just gotten better since last year. A triple header [versus NYU, Connecticut College and Brandeis] to get us started. I love tennis and I cannot wait to compete with our group this year."

—Will Sifton, Staff Writer

Panthers surge past Bowdoin in title game

By Ellen Halle
STAFF WRITER

The men's hockey team successfully returned to the top of the NESCAC as they won the title last Sunday afternoon, skating against Bowdoin on Maine ice and defeating the Polar Bears 3-2 with a last-minute goal by tri-captain Charlie Townsend '10. Going into the tournament, the Panthers certainly had a lot to prove.

Despite the fact that Middlebury beat Bowdoin 5-2 during the regular season, the Polar Bears had still earned the first seed in NESCAC tournament play.

Furthermore, the Panthers' domination in the NESCAC has

MEN'S HOCKEY

Saturday, March 6

Middlebury	4
Trinity	2

Sunday, March 7

Middlebury	3
Bowdoin	2

been challenged of late; the past two years, Middlebury failed to win NESCAC championships and consequently did not receive a bid into the NCAA playoffs.

The men took to the ice with a

vengeance on Saturday afternoon as they contested Trinity in the semifinal match. They skated to a 4-2 win over Trinity. The men started strong and were up 4-0 by the end of the second period.

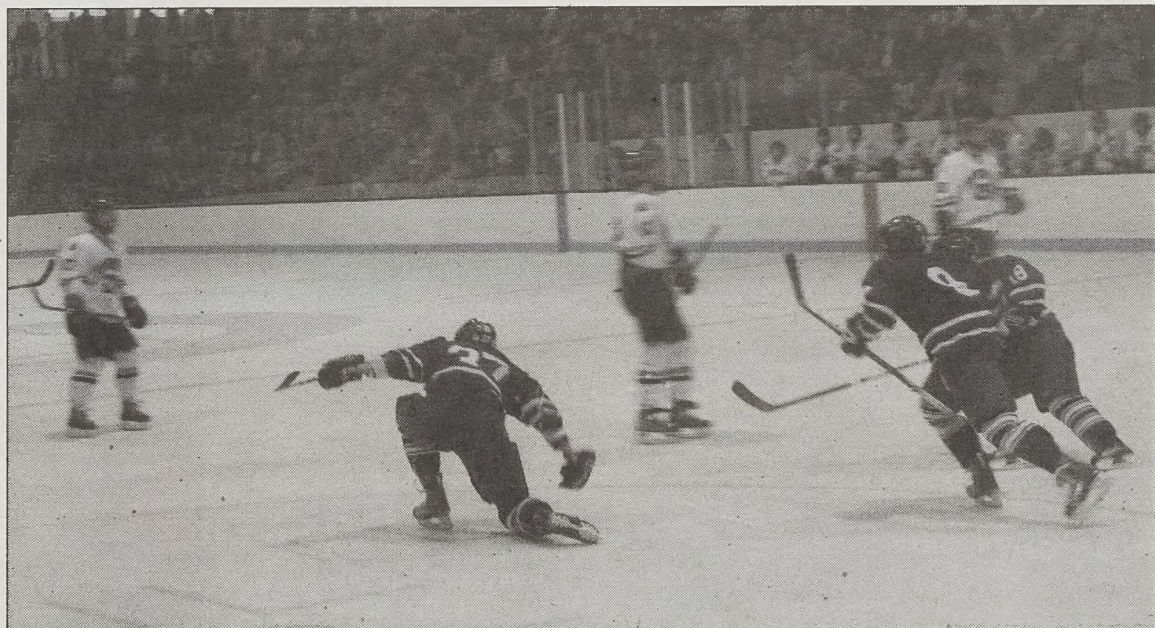
Two of the four goals were scored on power play opportunities, and four different players scored, showing the depth of the Panther offense. Ken Suchoski '11 started the scoring on the power play, assisted by Townsend and tri-captain Bryan Curran '11.

Middlebury picked up the intensity in the second period, with goals by all-NESCAC forward Martin Drolet '12 and Mathieu Dubuc '13. Fantastic defense during a five-on-three situation during the second period kept the Panthers up by three.

Late in the period, the Panthers had a five-on-three opportunity of their own, and the Bantams witnessed tri-captain John Sullivan '10 score his first goal of the game.

The Bantams had a plethora of opportunities to score late in the game, including a two-man advantage and an open-net situation in the closing minutes of the game, but failed to find the net.

John Yancheck '12 was strong between the pipes for Middlebury, making 26 saves. Eleven of these



Courtesy/Jeff Patterson

Tri-captain Charlie Townsend '10 celebrates after scoring the championship-winning goal at Bowdoin with 1:42 left to play.

saves came in the first period, preventing Trinity from getting an early lead, which the Panthers have sometimes found difficult to rebound from. This victory earned Middlebury a spot in the NESCAC finals the following day, where they would face Bowdoin.

The return to the NESCAC finals meant a lot to all of the players, but it was especially significant for returning players who had watched their team fall in the finals for two

straight years after nearly a decade of NESCAC dominance.

For all the seniors on the team, Sunday marked their last chance to play in a NESCAC final. The pressure was on, and in front of 2,300 fans in Bowdoin's Watson Arena and many more watching online, the men took to the ice.

"The atmosphere at Bowdoin was unreal," commented Chris Brown '13. "I think our whole team really fed off of being the away

team in such a packed house. The [Middlebury] fans who made the trek to support us really made it special, too."

The Panthers started the game strong, seeing two goals in the first period from Dubuc, who has proven himself to be a prolific scorer. The first of these two goals came after a Bowdoin penalty, when Dubuc scored off of a picture-perfect feed

SEE MEN'S HOCKEY, PAGE 20



Andrew Podryfala

Captain Tim Edwards '10 used his slick dribbling skills to blow by Gordon.

Men's basketball can't hold on in NCAA play

By Steve Hardin
STAFF WRITER

A.J. Gordon founded Gordon College in 1889 as a Catholic school "to prepare the people of God to do the work of God in bold and creative ways." On Friday, however, either the school basketball team was not as prepared as Mr. Gordon intended his students to be, or getting out of Pepin Gymnasium with a win just wasn't in the ultimate plan. The Fighting Scots (which is somewhat of an enigma to begin with, seeing that the Catholic god does not support fighting, nor was he Scottish), appeared over-matched early, but closed the half on an 11-2 run to go into the locker

room down only three.

After Middlebury was able to extend its lead to 16 following the break, Gordon surprisingly refused to give up and battled back to keep the game to within single digits for much of the second half, but witnessing their efforts was reminiscent of watching 67-year-old Dick Bavetta trying to chase down a backpedaling, although overweight, Charles Barkley. Bavetta blew out his knee in the endeavor.

Eventually, behind a team-high 17 from Nolan Thompson '13, a double-double from captain Tim Edwards '9.5, and a school-

SEE PANTHERS, PAGE 21

Women's hockey falls to Trinity in four overtimes

By Emma Gardner
SPORTS EDITOR

For family, friends and fans, the NESCAC semifinal women's hockey game on Mar. 6 was nothing if not a nail-biter. Sitting on the edge of their seats for almost four and a half hours — more than twice the length of a normal game — the crowd at Amherst's Orr Rink watched as the Panthers battled the Trinity Bantams in a heartbreaking 2-1 loss in the fourth overtime period. Not surprisingly, the game set a new record for the longest Division III women's hockey game ever played. Both teams put up a phenomenal performance — it was clear to anyone watching that the skaters left it all on the ice last Saturday.

Heidi Woodworth '11 opened the scoring for Middlebury, tallying the Panthers' first and only goal a mere three minutes into the game, with an assist from Ashley Bairos '10 and Anna McNally '11. The Panthers only slightly outshot the Bantams, though captain Lani Wright '10 blocked two particularly difficult shots from the Trinity players, setting the tone for her outstanding performance throughout the game.

The second period once again saw heated action on both sides of the ice, both teams giving it their all. The commentator for the live Internet broadcast of the game noted

that neither team was prepared to go home without a fight, not knowing at the time how true these words would ring. After a few close calls, Trinity's Britney McKenna managed to tie up the game at 12:31 as she knocked the puck past Wright to put Bowdoin on the board.

Pushing hard to take back the lead, Middlebury's skaters kept up the aggressive plays, once again holding the shot advantage over the Bantams and providing goaltender Isabel Iwachiw with plenty of action. Nevertheless, for the next 70 minutes of play the two squads remained locked in a stalemate.

One overtime period after another went by scoreless. With both sides refusing to let up and go home empty-handed, the game looked as though it might last forever. For the seniors on the ice, most of whom have been playing hockey since they could barely walk, this game had the potential to be the last of their careers, and these women were determined to make it count.

By the fourth overtime period, when the skaters had played well past their last ounce of energy and were running on pure adrenaline, Payson Sword managed to sneak a shot past Wright and end the game.

"After 6 1/2 periods you knew the ending wasn't going to be pretty,

and the final goal showed that," said assistant captain Marjie Billings '10.

While the Panthers numbly skated off the ice in disbelief, the Bantams collapsed onto one another, celebrating what would be their first appearance in the NESCAC title game.

"We went in to the game aiming to play the best game yet, and hoping for another week but that wasn't the case," Billings added. "Lani played the most unbelievable game I have seen her play in all my four years."

Indeed, Wright made 54 beautiful saves in the game, refusing to let Trinity infiltrate her territory and fending off some of the most aggressive shots the Panthers had encountered all season.

"Although losing the game was incredibly disappointing, we left everything on the ice," said assistant captain Heather McCormack. "No one gave up — we worked as hard as we could until the minute the game ended."

"We fought hard for [the equivalent of] two full hockey games, which will be an experience we will all remember," added Woodworth.

Though their season is now over, the Panthers have provided their fans with a truly exciting winter, displaying talent and grit that impressed ev-

SEE LONGEST, PAGE 21

this week in sports

games to watch

Men's hockey vs. Plattsburgh in
NCAA quarterfinals
Saturday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

Men's basketball
A staggeringly successful season culminated in an NCAA loss to R.I. College, p. 20.



Spring sports preview:

Look inside to see which varsity teams will dominate the competition, pp. 22-23.